

# NBC digest



JANUARY 1948

VOL. 2 NO. 2

LITERATURE OF THE SPOKEN WORD



PUBLIC AFFAIRS • DISCUSSION • COMMENT • DRAMA • HUMOR

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CENTS

**PRESIDENT**

**TRUMAN**

**ADDRESSES**

**CONGRESS**



*From the House of Representatives gallery in Washington on November 17th, television cameras scanned the joint session of Congress and enabled a large eastern network audience to watch the President while listening to his address.*

*To read what he said, turn to page 3.*

**THE PICTURE ON THE FRONT COVER:**

*The heiress-presumptive to the British throne and her husband come down the aisle in Westminster Abbey, following the wedding ceremony on November 20th. Story on page 19.*

Photographs on first, second and fourth covers by Press Association, Inc.

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# NBC digest

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# The Economic Situation in Europe and the United States

HARRY S. TRUMAN

THE Congress has been convened to consider two problems of major concern to the citizens of the United States and to the peoples of the world. The future of the free nations of Europe hangs in the balance. The future of our own economy is in jeopardy.

The action which you take will be written large in the history of this nation and of the world.

The Secretary of State and other representatives of the executive branch have appeared before committees of Congress during the past week to present the facts regarding the necessity for immediate assistance by the United States to certain European countries. Austria, France and Italy have nearly exhausted their financial resources. They must be helped if their peoples are to survive the coming winter, and if their political and economic systems are not to disintegrate.

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*When the 80th Congress reconvened, November 17, 1947, President Truman delivered this address before a joint session of the Senate and House. He was heard over the NBC network, and both seen and heard by a large television audience in eastern cities.*

Exceedingly bad weather has brought on crop failures and fuel shortages and has caused intense suffering. The food and fuel stocks of these countries are now near the vanishing point. Their peoples are in a dangerously weakened condition, due to years of short rations. Additional medical supplies and facilities are urgently necessary.

Austria needs \$42,000,000, Italy needs \$227,000,000 and France needs \$328,000,000 to buy food, fuel and other essential goods during the next four and one-half months. Detailed information has been presented to your committees concerning these needs and the purposes for which funds to be appropriated by the Congress would be spent.

Additional funds will also be required to maintain our position in occupied countries.

Emergency assistance by itself will not solve European problems. Emergency aid is no substitute for a long-range recovery program, but it is a vital prerequisite to such a program. If the Western European nations should collapse this winter, as a result of our failure to bridge the gap between their resources and their needs, there would be no chance for them — or for us — to

look forward to their economic recovery. The providing of interim aid will give us time to plan our part in an economic recovery program and it will give the peoples of Europe the strength to hold out until such a program begins.

I will shortly submit to the Congress recommendations concerning the long-range European recovery program. This program is the result of the combined efforts of thoughtful men of two continents whose concern has been the most effective manner in which sixteen European nations, western Germany and the United States can work together for European recovery, world prosperity and lasting peace.

IT is a tribute to the strength of our democracy that we are able to make so great a contribution to the freedom and welfare of other nations and other peoples. This nation is strong both in material resources and in the spirit of its people. Our economic strength, born of our system of free institutions, has contributed to raising the standard of living the world over. Our moral strength, resulting from our faith in human rights, is the inspiration of free men everywhere.

I refer to the strength of this nation with humility, for it is an awe-inspiring truth that the manner in which we exert our strength now, and in the future, will have a decisive effect on the course of civilization.

There is a truth whose significance grows with the experience of each passing day. The American people are becoming more and more deeply aware of their world position. They are learning that great responsibility goes with great power.

Our people know that our influence in the world gives us an opportunity — unmatched in history — to conduct ourselves in such a manner that men and women of all the world can move out of the shadows of fear and war and into the light of freedom and peace.

We must make the most of that opportunity. For we have learned, by the costly lesson of two world wars, that what happens beyond our shores determines how we live our own lives. We have learned that, if we want to live in freedom and security, we must work with all the world for freedom and security.

Human misery and chaos lead to strife and conquest.

Hunger and poverty tempt the strong to prey upon the weak.

Twice within this generation we have had to take up arms against nations whose leaders, misled by the hope of easy conquest, sought to dominate the world.

We are convinced that the best way to prevent future wars is to work for the independence and well-being of all nations. This conviction guides our present efforts, and will guide our future decisions. We have participated fully and

gladly in the growth of the United Nations and we seek now to strengthen and improve it. We are assisting free nations who have sought our aid in maintaining their independence. We have contributed large sums to help rebuild countries devastated by war. We have taken the lead in breaking down barriers to world trade.

In our efforts, however, to achieve the conditions of peace for all the world, we have encountered unforeseen and unwelcome obstacles.

We have found that not all nations seem to share our aims or approve our methods. We regret the differences which have arisen and the criticisms so loudly expressed. Yet we cannot afford, and we do not intend, to let current differences with some nations deter our efforts to cooperate in friendly fashion and to assist other nations who, like us, cherish freedom and seek to promote the peace and stability of the world.

The actions of this Government must be of a stature to match the dignity and influence of the United States in world affairs. The prompt provision by the Congress for interim aid will be convincing proof to all nations of our sincere determination to support the freedom-loving countries of western Europe in their endeavors to remain free and to become fully self-supporting once again.

If that action is followed by the enactment of the long-range Eu-

ropean recovery program, this Congress will have written a noble page in world annals.

I have spoken of the economic and moral strength of the United States and of the way in which we must use that strength if we are to build a world community of free, strong and independent nations.

The strength of the United States is not due to chance. It is due to the wise decisions and bold actions taken by free and courageous men throughout the history of our democracy.

The time is at hand for new decisions and new actions of equal wisdom.

ON several occasions during the past year I have reported to the Congress and to the nation on our general economic situation. These reports have told of new high levels of production and employment. Farmers are producing 37 per cent more than in 1929. Industry is producing 65 per cent more. In terms of actual purchasing power, the average income of individuals, after taxes, has risen 39 per cent. The rapid growth of our post-war economic activity has exceeded expectations and has revealed anew the potentialities of our economy.

In each of my reports, however, I have had to warn of dangers which lay ahead.

Today, inflation stands as an ominous threat to the prosperity

we have achieved. We can no longer treat inflation — with spiraling prices and living costs — as some vague condition we may encounter in the future. We already have an alarming degree of inflation. And even more alarming, it is getting worse.

Since the middle of 1946, fuel has gone up 13 per cent; clothing prices have gone up 19 per cent; retail food prices have gone up 40 per cent. The average for all cost of living items has risen 23 per cent.

The housewife who goes to buy food today must spend \$10 to buy what \$7 bought a year and a half ago.

The cost of living is still climbing. In the past four months it has risen at a rate of 16 per cent a year.

Wholesale prices are rising, too. They affect every industry and trade, and they are soon translated into retail prices.

Since the middle of 1946, wholesale textile prices have gone up 32 per cent; metals have gone up 36 per cent; building materials have gone up 42 per cent. Wholesale prices on the average have gone up 40 per cent.

The harsh effects of price inflation are clear. They are felt by wage earners, farmers and business men. Wage earners are finding that bigger pay checks this year buy less than smaller pay checks bought last year. Despite generalities about high farm prices, the income of many farm families cannot keep up with the rising costs of the things they

buy. Small business men are being squeezed by rising costs. Even those who are well off are asking, "How long can it last? When is the break coming?"

In addition, price inflation threatens our entire program of foreign aid. We cannot abandon foreign aid, nor can we abandon our own people to the ravages of unchecked inflation.

We cannot allow the strength of this nation to be wasted and our people's confidence in our free institutions to be shaken by an economic catastrophe. We shall be inviting that catastrophe unless we take steps now to halt runaway prices.

**O**UR immediate approach to the problems of high prices and inflation should consist of three types of measures: one, to relieve monetary pressures; two, to channel scarce goods into the most essential uses; three, to deal directly with specific high prices.

The way to reduce monetary pressure is by restraining the excessive use of credit. At a time when the economy is already producing at capacity, a further expansion of credit simply gives people more dollars to use in bidding up the prices of goods.

Consumer credit is increasing at a disturbing rate. The amount outstanding has risen from \$6,500,000,000 in 1945 to more than \$11,000,000,000 today. Even more rapid

expansion is under way now, because the controls on consumer credit exercised by the Federal Reserve System expired Nov. 1. These credit controls should be restored. Also, some restraint should be placed on inflationary bank credit.

Legislation is required, moreover, to prevent excessive speculation on the commodity exchanges.

Another effective weapon against inflation is increased savings by the public. Every dollar that is saved instead of spent is a dollar fighting against inflation. In order to encourage additional savings, the Government should intensify its vigorous efforts to sell savings bonds.

The second part of the program to curb inflation is to secure the most efficient use of scarce goods and otherwise channel their flow so as to relieve inflationary pressures. Grain, for example, is too badly needed to permit wasteful feeding to livestock. Steel, as another example, is too scarce to be used for non-essential purposes.

Legislation is required to authorize the allocation of scarce commodities which basically affect the cost of living, or basically affect industrial production. In these limited areas inventory control powers are also needed.

Authority to allocate transportation services should be extended.

In addition, existing export controls should be continued and strengthened. Goods that we cannot wisely export must be kept

here, and the shipments we make must go where they are needed most. Profiteering in exports must be prevented.

The measures which I have already discussed will, when taken together, aid substantially in relieving inflationary pressures. For large segments of the economy, they should be adequate to meet the requirements of the present situation. However, there are limited areas of acute danger in which these measures cannot be regarded as guaranteeing adequate protection.

For example, present forecasts indicate that we are likely to have less grain and meat next year than we have this year. The pressure on the prices of these foods would then become increasingly great. If these pressures are permitted to bring further sharp increases in food prices, they may well set off a chain reaction that would spread throughout the economy. It is surely better to take timely action to check adverse forces at particular trouble spots than to wait until general inflation has become so serious as to require drastic controls over the whole economic life.

Therefore, we need a third group of measures to combat inflation. Legislation should be enacted, authorizing the Government to impose price ceilings on vital commodities in short supply that basically affect the cost of living. Basic elements in the cost of living are food, clothing, fuel and rent. In addition, the legislation should

be broad enough to authorize price ceilings on those vital commodities in short supply that basically affect industrial production. This will enable us to stamp out profiteering and speculation in these important areas.

This does not mean that price ceilings should be imposed on all items within the classes I have mentioned. For example, price ceilings would not be necessary for staple food and clothing items not in short supply or for any delicacies or luxuries. The same principle of selective treatment would apply to industrial items. This selective treatment of a relatively few danger spots is very different from over-all wartime price controls.

Even should the shortages of a few commodities at the consumer level remain serious for a time, I believe that the fair distribution of such commodities can be largely accomplished without consumer rationing. But no one can foretell exactly how serious some shortages may become next year. With serious shortages, a free market works cruel hardships on countless families and puts an unbearable pressure on prices. I therefore recommend that authority be granted, as a preparedness measure, to ration basic cost of living items on a highly selective basis.

Adequate protection from high prices and unfair distribution can be assured only by establishing authority for price ceilings and rationing in the fields of critical

importance. It takes several months to set up an organization and make the administrative arrangements necessary to put price control and rationing into effect. Thus, the only prudent course is to establish the authority at this time so the necessary preparations can be started. If we fail to prepare, and disaster results from our unpreparedness, we shall have gambled with our national safety — and lost.

If the Government imposes price ceilings covering a specific area of production, it should in all fairness have the authority, in that same area, to prevent wage increases which will make it impossible to maintain the price ceilings. This authority should be granted, although I believe that there would be few occasions for its use.

I am confident that, if the cost of living can be brought and held in reasonable relationship to the incomes of the people, wage adjustments through collective bargaining will be consistent with productivity and will avoid an inflationary round of wage increases.

Next to food, the most important element in the cost of living is rent. Under the modified rent control law, rents are rising at the rate of about 1 per cent a month. A 12 per cent annual increase in rents imposes an intolerable strain upon the family budget. The Rent Control Law should be extended and the weaknesses in the present law should be corrected.

I AM well aware that some of my proposals are drastic measures. No one regrets more than I the necessity for considering their use. But if we face the facts squarely, it is apparent that no other methods can safely be counted upon to protect our people from the dangers of excessively high prices and ruinous inflation.

The American people want adequate protection from these dangers and they are entitled to it. It should not be denied them. Nor should they be misled with half measures.

Even with the authority to impose price ceilings, the Government will intensify its efforts to obtain voluntary action. Wherever voluntary action will do the job there will be no necessity to impose the Government's authority. But the very existence of these powers should have a salutary effect. They will demonstrate to each of our citizens the importance of carefully weighing each step that might lead to higher prices. They will support expanded and more specific efforts to obtain voluntary action by business men, labor leaders, farmers, and consumers to hold prices down.

All the actions I have described are essential to a fair and effective anti-inflation program. I look upon them as short-run insurance against the impairment of our prosperity and the threat to our future development.

We should all ponder the following questions:

What would it avail the farmer, in the long run, if farm prices should go substantially higher only to be followed by a disaster such as occurred after the first World War?

What would it avail the worker, in the long run, to obtain inflationary wage increases, if they were followed by a repetition of the bitter experience when 15,000,000 workers were out of jobs?

What would it avail the businessman to have record-breaking profits soar even higher, if they were followed by a depression which would imperil our whole system of enterprise?

The program which I have outlined is one designed to meet the existing emergencies of inflation and exorbitant price levels. It is an emergency program which should be adopted to protect our standard of living for the immediate present and to make possible economic security in the future.

But a program designed to meet a crisis cannot by itself be a program designed to build for the future. We must also make plans to prevent future difficulty of the same nature.

Our long-range programs must stress ever-increasing production.

To accomplish this for agriculture, we need a comprehensive farm program. We shall need programs to increase the use of farm

products by industry and consumers in this country when other countries become more nearly self-sufficient. Long-range national measures will be needed to protect the farm population against ruinous deflation in farm production and prices.

To expand industrial output, we need a long-range program to overcome basic shortages in capacity and equipment. To provide markets for increased output of farm and factory, we shall need long-range programs to raise the standard of living, particularly for families of low income.

But the first step toward this progress in the future is to deal with the critical present. We must win the battle against inflation, so that our long-range efforts may start from high levels of prosperity and not from the depths of a depression.

**I**N summary, the immediate anti-inflation program that I recommend calls for the following legislative action:

1. To restore consumer credit controls and to restrain the creation of inflationary bank credit.
2. To authorize the regulation of speculative trading on the commodity exchanges.
3. To extend and strengthen export controls.
4. To extend authority to allocate transportation facilities and equipment.

5. To authorize measures which will induce the marketing of livestock and poultry at weights and grades that represent the most efficient utilization of grain.

6. To enable the Department of Agriculture to expand its program of encouraging conservation practices in this country, and to authorize measures designed to increase the production of foods in foreign countries.

7. To authorize allocation and inventory control of scarce commodities which basically affect the cost of living or industrial production.

8. To extend and strengthen rent control.

9. To authorize consumer rationing on products in short supply which basically affect the cost of living.

10. To authorize price ceilings on products in short supply which basically affect the cost of living or industrial production, and to authorize such wage ceilings as are essential to maintain the necessary price ceilings.

If we neglect our economic ills at home, if we fail to halt the march of inflation, we may bring on a depression from which our economic system, as we know it, might not recover. And if we turn our backs on nations still struggling to recover from the agony of war, not yet able to stand on their own feet, we may lose for all time the

chance to obtain a world of free peoples that can live in enduring peace.

The freedom that we cherish in our own economy and the freedom that we enjoy in the world today are both at stake.

I have recommended interim aid for certain western European countries and a program to curb inflation in the United States. I regard

the measures which I have presented to you as vital and essential to the welfare of this nation.

When the American people have faced decisions of such magnitude in the past, they have taken the right course.

I am confident that the Congress, guided by the will of the people, will take the right course on this occasion.

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## History in Television

Referring to the thousands of people who, by means of television, watched as well as listened to the President on November 17th, *The New York Times* commented editorially the next morning:

"The occasion was real to them as it was not to those who merely listened. They knew by observation that Mr. Truman wore a dark business suit and that his tie was knotted tightly and slightly to one side; that he had not memorized any part of his manuscript and therefore had to look down a large part of the time; that his gestures were simple movements of the left hand, sometimes with the open palm, sometimes with an index finger accentuating important points; and that he turned his pages carefully, loosening them with the extended fingers of his right hand and rearranging them with his left.

"They saw, in the frame of light, another hand above him turning pages. It was the hand of Speaker Martin or Senator Vandenberg, but it might have seemed the hand of history. When Mr. Truman finished his speech he took a drink of water, and when he left the rostrum he folded up his manuscript and took it away with him. The television spectators could watch him on the way out, too; he paused to speak to friends, and one remembered his saying that his happiest years were when he was only a Senator. Senators, the observer would realize, do not often have to decide matters concerning the life and death of nations. One might even suspect that Mr. Truman would rather have been in the congregation than in the pulpit.

"Television is young. When it grows up an entire nation will see as well as hear great distant figures and events. Democracy will again be a town meeting. May it take strength from this invention."

# Our Economy is Based on Freedom

ROBERT A. TAFT

**T**ODAY the President of the United States demanded that Congress and the people turn the clock backward. He advocates a return to the days of war, of the OPA, of the War Labor Board and the War Production Board.

He demands power in his individual discretion to fix prices or not to fix prices, to fix wages or not to fix wages, to prevent purchases by the housewife unless she gets ration stamps from some new Federal board, to dictate to every farmer where he shall sell the products of his farm and at what prices and to regulate the details of every business, control its inventories, regulate its acquisition of raw materials and direct the disposition of its finished products.

He wants price control against the producer, wage control against the working man, rationing against the housewife and the restaurant,

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*Senator Taft of Ohio, Republican leader in the Senate, faced an NBC microphone and television cameras in Washington on the evening of November 17 to answer the address, printed on the preceding pages, which the President had delivered to Congress that afternoon. His speech was broadcast over the NBC nationwide radio network and the eastern television network.*

every kind of control over the business man.

It means the setting up of a Federal bureau with literally hundreds of thousands of employes, and agents prying into the daily lives of millions of people. We know this is what it would mean because we saw it happen here. Such a proposal is not progress, nor is it liberalism. It is reaction and a step to a completely totalitarian nation.

Evidently under this Administration we can never return to a state of peace. We still have war taxes. We have a war budget. Now we are to have war controls.

Most of our Presidents have regarded war and its incidence as the worst calamity that people could suffer, except the loss of its liberty. But the present Administration for domestic policy reasons is so eager to retain the incidence of war that one can only doubt whether there is a real will to peace.

The President represents that these powers will be sparingly used only with relation to vital commodities in short supply which basically affect the cost of living, or basically affect industrial production.

Everything, he says, is to be done on a highly selected basis. If there is one thing which the OPA certainly learned, it is that you can't do price control partially.

Why, the President ended con-

trols himself on the ground that you could not control some prices unless you controlled all. All important commodities are interrelated. If you ration and fix the price of meat, everybody rushes out to buy chickens and eggs.

Controls immediately must be established over them. And who is to determine what are vital commodities and whether they affect the cost of living? Of course all commodities affect the cost of living. That definition alone includes 90 per cent of all commodities. No—the President is only trying to sugarcoat the pill. This is the OPA. This is the police state condemned by the President himself only a month ago. This is the end of economic freedom.

Certainly prices are too high. Unreasonable increases in wages may be requested. Certainly more food is being consumed in this country than necessary. But if we can't meet problems of that kind within our system of free competition and incentive then we must regiment prices, wages and rationing forever.

**A**PART from theory, there are three practical objections to adopting a police state. First, it chokes production instead of increasing it, and what we want is more production to give people what they need at reasonable prices.

We saw, under the OPA controls, how many important products disappeared from the market.

The housewife couldn't buy any butter, any meat, any soap, any canned goods. No man could find a white shirt or a new suit. There was no leather because of the black-market slaughtering of beef, and no shoes. There wasn't any lumber or building materials. And none of them came back until we got rid of OPA.

The English have complete price control and rationing, and they haven't got enough to live on. They have no incentive to get production. Men don't work longer hours, because there isn't anything to buy with the money that they could earn. Surely with that example before us, we don't want to socialize and regiment America.

In the second place nobody knows enough to do the job of control as well as it is done by natural economic law. There are probably a billion transactions a day in this country and no one knows how to fix the prices and conditions to govern those sales.

I saw the little men who struggled with the problem in the OPA bureaus. They created books and books of regulations, and had to amend them daily. If their rules fitted the east, they didn't fit the west or the south.

And there was no relief from their bungling and their injustice. Certainly this Administration has shown no evidence of ability to do the job. Look at the mess made of the voluntary food-saving program to carry out a simple and highly desirable purpose. Meatless Tues-

days and chickenless and eggless Thursdays never did make any sense, because everyone ate chickens and eggs on Tuesdays and meat on Thursdays, leaving them exactly where they were.

Last Thursday morning on the dining car the steward told us that, while he could not serve eggs, he would substitute wheat cakes on every order. So to save wheat for Europe the travelers ate wheatcakes in America. What difference would it have made if the Government had had legal power to enforce its decree? The compulsory plan would have been the same fool plan, and just as ineffective.

The reason this country has a surplus of food to ship in such tremendous amounts is that we have pursued a system based on liberty. If we go back to Government restrictions, there won't be any surplus to ship abroad, and we will be subject to the same paralysis of initiative which exists in Europe and in England today.

According to the President's own statement, the average income of individuals after taxes has risen 39 per cent since 1929 in terms of actual purchasing power. The average man is therefore 39 per cent better off than he was at the high point of prosperity eighteen years ago.

The average workman is better off today than he was in 1939 just before the war in spite of the high prices, because his wages have gone up 110 while the cost of living has only gone up about 65 per cent.

Nearly half the families in the country have two workers in the family, and those families are better off than they were before the war. Unfortunately there are still a large number of families whose wages or fixed income has lagged behind the increase in prices.

We have to do everything therefore that we can to get prices down or increase their income, but we don't need to surrender liberty to keep this country on an even keel.

What emergency except a political emergency justifies making the President an economic dictator with power to run the lives of every business man, farmer, working man and housewife?

**T**HIS high price condition is no accident. It has obviously resulted from the policies of the Administration which has controlled this Government for the last fifteen years and throughout the war. Prices are high because demand is greater than the supply.

Although the supply is tremendously increased over pre-war, the money available for spending has increased still more. The war was financed on inflation, with a deficit of \$50,000,000,000 a year for three or four years. The money created then and saved by the people is coming into the market today to buy goods.

Under lend-lease we distributed dollars around the world, and now those dollars are coming back from South America and elsewhere to

buy goods that are insufficient for our own needs. Through the Bretton Woods Fund and Bank and the British loan we have distributed more dollars to be spent here.

At the same time we have kept Government expenses and taxes many times higher than they were before the war. The Administration has resisted any attempt to cut expenses, or to cut taxes. Every cent the Government spends puts more money into the buyer's side of the market.

The huge tax burden from this expense, amounting to about \$40,000,000,000 a year — plus \$12,000,000,000 of state and local taxes — 30 per cent of the national income altogether — is a burden on millions of taxpayers. A lot of the taxes, however, are passed on into the cost of manufactured products. When you buy a pair of shoes you help pay the taxes of the farmer who raises the cattle, the livestock dealer, the packer, the leather processor, the shoe manufacturer and the shoe retailer. Probably 25 per cent of what you pay for your shoes is made up of taxes, and the same is true of many other articles.

Probably the most important cause of high prices is the tremendous volume of export buying. True, we have an exceptional income here at home in the United States, but the income of our people is practically balanced by our production.

When we impose on top of this balance \$20,000,000,000 of foreign

money, of foreign buying, we can hardly be surprised that a great increase in demand outruns our supply and forces prices up. This year we are exporting at the rate of \$20,000,000,000 a year and importing at the rate of \$9,000,000,000. That means that \$11,000,000,000 of market demand are coming from abroad with no goods to balance them. About half of it is balanced by taxes, but the other half is pure inflation.

The President recommends that we extend and strengthen export controls. Why, he has had power to control exports right along, only he hasn't exercised it in any effective way. He has permitted the world to come in with the dollars we gave them, and bid up the price of our goods.

Of course we have to export to Europe to prevent starvation and chaos. Everybody agrees on that. There isn't any substantial difference about the necessity of doing something at once to carry Italy and France through the winter, through a short-range emergency program.

From the point of view of checking Communism, this program is essential, but it is more or less useless unless we also change our policy in Germany and our policy in China. Secretary Marshall's efforts to re-establish the economy of western Europe with American dollars is completely hopeless as long as he continues in Germany to destroy the industrial plants which alone

can make Germany self-supporting.

Secretary Marshall is apparently uninterested in saving China from the Communists at a very reasonable cost, while he advocates the spending of billions for western Europe. It is most unfortunate that there is not a word of encouragement in this message for those who are fighting against Communism in China without ammunition and with their backs to the wall.

People seem to feel that we cannot check exports without causing hardship and starvation, but as a matter of fact, of some \$20,000,000,000 of exports, of goods and services, in 1947, only about 40 per cent go to Europe—\$12,000,000,000 goes to every other section of the world, North America, South America, Asia and Africa.

Surely we should ration the rest of the world on steel, grain and oil before we even consider rationing our own people.

Today the Russian Government has an active commission here buying American goods and paying gold for them, which is better than credit, but just as inflationary. Much of what Russia is buying is heavy machinery, good for the manufacture of munitions.

Why does the President grant export licenses for goods of this kind and permit the Russians to come in and spend their money for them when steel and various types of machinery are insufficient for our own needs?

I have pointed out that the tremendous exports are one of the main causes of high prices here today. They can be cut down. In fact, if they continue at the present volume they present a threat to the whole economy, because they cannot possibly be maintained indefinitely when the world returns to normal.

In 1929 we built up a false export trade based on private credit. When it became apparent that the loans were not to be repaid, all lending stopped, and the sudden unemployment which resulted here contributed heavily to the depression of 1932. Now we are repeating the experiment with Government funds instead of private funds.

WE have been aiding Europe at the rate of about \$5,000,000,000 a year of Government grants, loans and other aid. I think we can maintain that rate if we cut down on other exports and other Government expense without further serious effect on prices, and certainly without any need for setting up police state controls.

But I can't see any reason for increasing the rate of the very generous contributions we have been making. No nation has ever been so generous or made such tremendous effort to export as we have during the past two years.

We cannot endanger our whole economy and our whole liberty by trying to increase that five billion rate to the \$8,000,000,000 a year re-

quested by the foreign nations at Paris.

European Socialists do not seem to realize that if we are to continue a program for any length of time it must be based on a continuation of the liberty which has brought it about. But while temporarily we might increase our output by government restrictions, in the end we would soon be subject to the same paralysis of initiative which exists in England and in Europe today. In other words, Europe has to take the limitations which are inherent in a free system if they want the benefits produced by it.

We have shipped more food and other assistance out of this country than any other nation has ever done before in the history of the world. We cannot stretch that liberality too far, or there will be nothing to ship. We cannot ship so much that under a free system it will lead to a period of boom and bust.

In short, the way to hold prices down is for the Government to spend less money and reduce taxes, to limit exports and to hold the Marshall plan within a reasonable figure, and to control the growth of private credit. The Marshall plan is not primarily to relieve hardship and starvation. Our whole contribution for food, fuel and fertilizer under this plan will probably not be more than \$2,500,000,000 a year.

The rest of the assistance requested is desirable, but much of it is not essential, certainly not worth the

establishment of another OPA and a police state in this country.

Apparently the President thinks that we cannot adopt his version of the Marshall plan without police state controls and another OPA. I said last week in New York that the President was asking for two completely inconsistent policies at the same time. I said that if we wanted the \$8,000,000,000 European form of the Marshall plan and all the exports we have, we cannot have lower prices. If we want lower prices, we have to give up that kind of Marshall plan.

If the Marshall plan is essential for the preservation of Europe and the world, then perhaps we can even stand higher prices more than we can stand a complete relapse to a Fascist regimentation of every individual in the United States.

But I believe very strongly that we can adopt a modified Marshall plan probably with more benefit to the countries concerned than if we are too lavish with our dollars, and I believe that we can hold prices at reasonable amounts with such a modified plan, if we cut other expenses and taxes, control credits and limit exports.

**S**URELY, the American people do not desire a return to the days of OPA. They know that the controls won't work. They remember the shortages and the black markets. In time of war a morale develops which makes it possible to maintain some control, but in time

of peace controls in this country are certain to fail. They will not hold real prices down, if we permit other conditions to go on forcing prices up.

We can't advocate higher wages with any promise that there will be no higher prices, as the President did just after the end of the war.

The American people don't like to be regimented, and they don't like to be ordered around by Federal officials. Our experience with Prohibition and with OPA both prove that vast black-market operations develop which the Federal Government itself is unable to control. Morals are broken down because it pays to be a criminal.

Surely, the President's memory must be short. It was the President's own decontrol board which took off the controls on dairy products and grains in 1946. It was the President himself who took off controls on meat just before the 1946 election.

Can he sincerely believe that the Government could now enforce the controls he is asking for more successfully than they were controlling prices at that time? Does he think they can enforce the controls without a vast army of enforcement agents? Or even with such an army?

The President's adoption of this police-state program represents the final surrender to the left wing. The President himself indicated clearly within a month his disapproval of price control. What has happened since? The growing im-

portance of the Marshall plan?

But three committees of eminent men examined that plan and found that we could safely undertake it, or the essential part of it, without serious danger to this country. While some mild forms of allocation were suggested none of the committees thought a complete price control, wage control, rationing system was necessary. Only Leon Henderson and his crowd, and the Political Action Committee of the CIO, advocated this program now adopted by the President.

There has been no change of conditions since the President's opinion a month ago except the conditions of political strategy.

We stand at the crossroads today between a free America and a planned economy. This is the last stand of the planners who think they know how to run the people's affairs better than the people can know themselves.

If this effort succeeds in time of peace, there will never be a time when an emergency cannot be summoned up to justify the continuation of powers of this kind.

This country is the great bulwark of a free life, and from that freedom has developed the greatest and most productive country in the world and the country where the people are better off than any other country in the world. Shall we abandon that philosophy and that program for the police-state methods which have brought the rest of the world as seekers for charity to our door?

# The Royal Wedding

*The marriage of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, better known as Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, was solemnized in Westminster Abbey November 20, 1947. Commentators of the four national networks of the United States were "pooled" to bring to the American radio audience eye-witness reports of the entire event — from the gates of Buckingham Palace to the sanctuary of the Abbey. Many thousands of Londoners saw and heard these happenings by television, through the facilities of the British Broadcasting Corporation. Next afternoon — little more than twenty-four hours after the wedding — NBC's television audience in New York, Washington, Philadelphia and Schenectady witnessed the important parts of the British television program, telecast here from motion pictures taken from the BBC television screen in London and immediately flown across the Atlantic.*

NBC's London manager, Merrill Mueller, was stationed at the entrance to Westminster Abbey. Following are excerpts from his broadcast, before and after the ceremony. The deeply stirring music of military bands and cathedral organ, the cheers of the vast crowd and the pealing of the carillon bells of Westminster, which are necessarily absent from the printed page, will not be forgotten by those who heard the broadcast.

THE boys in uniform who are stealing the crowd's hearts here are the beef eaters from the Tower of London in their red-and-gold ancient uniforms with pikes, and the precision men of the Grenadiers in olive drab.

We've just been watching some distinguished guests arrive and go up the red-carpeted canopy into the west door. First to arrive were the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, who got a royal salute from the Grenadier Guardsmen drawn up in ramrod straight lines imme-

diately below me here, and carrying the Royal Standard.

Next, and the man who got the greatest cheer from the crowd, was Winston Churchill, Britain's wartime leader. We've also seen Earl Mountbatten and his Duchess, who was beautifully turned out in a petal pink gown which is outstanding on this gray dull day here in London.

There's a distinguished guest coming around the corner, but I can't see him yet. Anyway, it must be royalty because the Guards, as

you've probably just heard, have clumped into position and the colors are being dipped. We're waiting now for one fleeting glimpse of this guest. I assume it's probably Queen Mary — yes, it is — it's Queen Mary, the grandmother of the Princess, just arriving now at Westminster Abbey. Listen to the crowd and the band for a second. (*Sounds of crowd and band playing*). I wish you could see this crowd standing at the national anthem, with the nation's colors dipped into the dust of the pavement.

Once again the Grenadier Guards have come stiffly to salute and the Royal standard has gone down into the dust as the first Horse Guards appear, giving a captain's escort for Queen Elizabeth, the reigning Queen of England. And here now is the captain's escort of Life Guards and Blues — their white plumes, their brass helmets, their brass breastplates, their red coats, big white gauntlets, white breeches, black boots, the sheepskin saddle-blankets and their jet-black horses, some of them just recently given to the King as a gift from Queen Wilhelmina of Holland.

Here are Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret in the glass coach — the tall stately glass coach, its red wheels, its black body trimmed in gold, with its postillion men in the red-coated Royal uniform of the livery of the stable. Here goes the captain's escort by us again — some more Blues and Life Guards. Of

course, the horses now that are predominating in the square are the famous Windsor Grays, two of which are tied up to this glass coach which has brought Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret. They have just gone into the Abbey.

I'd like to tell you of the progress of a little young lady I've been watching down here in the crowd. She's an American captain in the Women's Army Corps. When I first arrived here about 9:30 this morning, this girl was about 55 or 60 positions from the actual curb. Now, thanks to the crush of the crowd, and also some very heavy faintings going on steadily in the front rows, she is only three or four from the curbstone, and I'll wager five to one that she'll probably make it before the procession is over. She is in there battling every moment.

Here in front of the Abbey it's always easy to tell when someone is about to arrive. The brigade of guards snaps to attention and the flag goes down in the dust, and we know that royalty is just around the corner. We're waiting now for the carriage bearing Her Royal Highness, the bride. Here come the Life Guards and the Blues, mounted. The sovereign's escort is just prancing through the square now. We're waiting for the first glimpse of the carriage. You can hear a sudden hush behind my voice in the square, the expectation of the moment this crowd has waited all night to see. Here comes their

Princess Elizabeth to be married. Here comes the bride, and slowly, very slowly, in the background, you will hear the buildup of the crowd cheers as she goes by and comes around to the west door of the Abbey. Here's the sovereign's escort just going through the square now. And my, they are beautiful! They have stepped up their pace a little bit because someone's told them they are running a little behind schedule. Hear the cheers, hear the cheers! Hear the crowd! *(Cheering of crowd).*

Here comes Princess Elizabeth — her last steps as a young woman before she becomes married. Here's the huge Irish state coach, the huge ornate Irish state coach, with its men in red as postillions, drawing up slowly now to the west door of the Abbey as the sovereign's escort swings smartly by and goes around the corner. His carriage has just stopped now in front of the door. Behind it, the three other carriages carrying the associates and friends who are attached to the Buckingham Palace household and on this day assisting the bride in her marriage service.

One of the footmen now is just holding down the staircase to come out. Here comes the King. Here is the King! He's just stepped down now onto the red-carpeted canopy, and he reaches in very graciously with his right hand to assist the bride out of the carriage. Elizabeth is straightening out her dress and train so that there's no possibility

of an accident on that little step that she must touch. She's now just about ready to step out of the carriage. The King is giving her a hand straightening out — that fifteen feet of train that she's got to watch there. Here comes the bridal bouquet, and there is the bride. There is the bride! She's just stepped down and is now starting up the red carpet into Westminster Abbey.

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**T**HIS is Merrill Mueller again, immediately outside the door of Westminster Abbey. Flashlight bulbs are exploding all over the place, the crowd is beginning to cheer in anticipation, but the bride has not yet come into sight. There is the national anthem just starting. Here is the bride. Listen to the crowd. *(Crowd cheers)*

Her Royal Highness, Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, pauses on the red-carpeted canopy and looks around at the crowd, readjusts her train with the help of one of her maids from Buckingham Palace. The bride and groom are now seated in the glass carriage, and the crowd can see the Princess. Listen to the crowd. *(Cheering of crowd)*

Princess Elizabeth, the very happy bride. She has waved once to the crowd. She is now adjusting her coronet and her veil. She is turning to her husband who is seated on her right. They will go

up Whitehall with Princess Elizabeth on the left-hand side of the chariot and Lieutenant Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, on the right.

The postillion men have now mounted on the back of the carriage and the royal couple are just about to start away from Westminster Abbey. The guards are at salute. Along beside me now is Princess Elizabeth with a big broad smile for the crowd, leaning out of the carriage window to get a glimpse of all the people who are cheering her. She is waving to them, smiling as she goes out of sight, and we see the back of the carriage go into Parliament Square toward White-

hall, with a captain's escort of Life Guards and Blues. Our little American WAC captain that I told you about finally made it. She staked out her claim to the curbstone here and she is in full control. At least that little corner is hers for the moment. But the crowd is suffering very badly from the crush here. The ambulance men are carrying away a woman or a man every thirty seconds to a minute.

The carillon bells which you now are hearing behind my voice from Westminster Abbey will peal for the next four hours. There will be an unbroken pealing of bells throughout the city of London for four hours.

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### Address by the Archbishop of York

*At the conclusion of the wedding service, a world of radio listeners heard the Archbishop of York address these words to the bride and groom:*

IN the presence of this congregation, and in the hearing of the invisible audience in every part of the world, you have now become man and wife. Never before has a wedding been followed with such intense interest by so many and this has not been merely passive. It has been accompanied by the heartfelt prayers and good wishes of millions and the hope that throughout your married life you may have every happiness and blessing.

One of you, the daughter of our much loved King and Queen, has gained already by charm and simple grace the affection and admiration of all and the other, as a sailor, has a sure place in the hearts of the people who know how much they owe to the strong shield of the Royal Navy.

Notwithstanding the splendor and national significance of this occasion, the service in the abbey is in all essentials exactly the same

as it would be for any cottager who might be married this afternoon in some small country church in a remote village in the dales. The same vows are taken, the same prayers are offered and the same blessings are given. Everywhere and always this service is built around the taking of vows and the giving of blessing.

A vow was taken by each of you separately and individually when before God and man you made a solemn and deliberate promise that come what may, for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, you will always be true and faithful to one another "until death us do part."

You have made this great promise willingly and gladly because you have given yourselves to each other in unselfish love. Love must always be unselfish, and unselfishness is the true secret of a happy married life. It must show itself not only in a great moment of heroic self-sacrifice but continually in all small problems and incidents of everyday life. It means thoughtfulness and patience, ready sympathy and forbearance, talking over and sharing together the special interests and cares which each of you will have.

And thus you will learn to bear one another's burdens as you walk on the road of life, making the journey together with happiness and hope. Through this unselfishness you will be able to make your home an oasis of peace and quiet in the midst of a life which is cer-

tain to be crowded with public duties and which will often be interrupted by exacting claims upon your time. A happy and unselfish home life of your own will enable you to enter more readily into the joys and sorrows of people who have a deep and instinctive love of their homes.

But this service is far more than the taking of solemn vows. It is one of blessing. For it is only through God's help that you can keep the promise you have made. God's blessing has been given you that you may so live together in this life that in the world to come you may have everlasting life. The ever-living Christ is here to bless you. And He will always be near to help and guide you. His perfect love will deepen your love. The nearer you keep to Him the nearer you will be to one another. Let Him always be an unseen guest in your home. Never let a day pass without speaking to God in prayer. Everyday pray for one another and for His help and blessing.

So with high and confident hope for all that this day means for yourself and the nation, we send you forth from this abbey to the great multitudes outside who are eagerly waiting to welcome you as man and wife. You go forth with the affectionate good wishes of all who are here. May God's unfailing love always surround and protect you. May He, day by day, now and always, give you every blessing, peace and happiness.

# The American System of Broadcasting

JUSTIN MILLER AND BILL BEATON

JUDGE MILLER: Broadcasters have been cooperating with the Freedom Train everywhere it's visited. But those of us close to broadcasting couldn't help noticing a pointed contrast. The Freedom Train will take a full year to make its tour of the nation. Broadcasting does it in a fraction of a second, with the speed of light — 186 thousand miles a second.

MR. BEATON: You mean, modern broadcasting has outmoded old ideas, Judge?

JUDGE MILLER: Not that — no. The contrast is especially striking for what it tells us about the wisdom of the men who wrote the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, those basic documents the Freedom Train

is showing to the people of this country who've never seen them — the people whose freedoms are guarded by them. The men who wrote the Constitution never dreamed of the flood of newspapers and magazines from great presses — much less of broadcasting, motion pictures, television, facsimile transmission, and other ways of communicating ideas in an instant. Yet they managed to write the Constitution so that it protected the freedoms of the press and speech — freedom of expression, if you like. MR. BEATON: You speak of "protecting" freedom of speech and press, Judge Miller. There are people who say that radio doesn't *have* freedom of speech.

JUDGE MILLER: There are such people. But they'd do well to take another look at the Constitution, especially the First Amendment. The men who wrote that amendment didn't confer any new freedoms on press and speech. They knew that such freedoms were ancient possessions of men, and they wrote the First Amendment merely to safeguard them — to say to government that it could never *abridge* such freedoms. They knew that tyrannical governments in the past

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*This interview with Judge Miller, President of the National Association of Broadcasters and former Justice of the U. S. Court of Appeals, was broadcast over the NBC network from Los Angeles, October 25, 1947. Bill Beaton, who asked the questions, is Manager of Station KWKW, Pasadena, and President of the Southern California Broadcasters Association.*

had temporarily taken such rights away from their peoples, or reduced them.

Broadcasters, of course, have the same Constitutional guarantees that every American has. But we must be very alert to certain forms of encroachment.

MR. BEATON: Does that imply that there are dangers?

JUDGE MILLER: Very definitely. One example is the famous Mayflower decision. The decision, made by the Federal Communications Commission in 1941, is an important one in radio history. The Commission at that time ruled that a radio station did not have the right to express its opinions on candidates for public office.

MR. BEATON: Let me get that straight. Doesn't the Commission have the power to regulate radio broadcasting?

JUDGE MILLER: Only within the scope of the Federal Communications Act. It is important to remember that the Constitution guarantees that there shall be no abridgement of an American's right to speak freely.

MR. BEATON: I understand that a rehearing has been scheduled by the Commission to review the case.

JUDGE MILLER: Yes, that's correct. Because the broadcasting industry has presented such a strong case, the Commission, only a few weeks ago, scheduled a re-hearing of the Mayflower decision. I am op-

timistic that, as a result of the hearing, radio station operators will have full rights to editorialize on the air.

MR. BEATON: Isn't it true, Judge Miller, that American radio listeners prefer our free system of broadcasting to government control?

JUDGE MILLER: Very definitely. A recent poll, conducted by the National Opinion Research Center, shows that 70 per cent of those queried felt that private business should control radio broadcasting.

MR. BEATON: In that case, private enterprise is called upon to invest in the station originally and private enterprise must provide the money necessary to bring the wide variety of programs we have to the listeners.

JUDGE MILLER: That's true. In this country, our radio system is paid for by commercial organizations. Radio is a business. It provides not only entertainment; but if you think for a moment, you realize how much ground American radio covers. If you like symphonies, there is an abundance of the world's finest orchestras available to the listeners. All through the day, every day, radio gives you the latest news. If you are sports minded, you can hear the nation's outstanding football games every weekend. A few weeks ago, millions of people were able to follow the World Series, play-by-play. Mystery fans have top-notch thrillers. Our national leaders and our local spokesmen present their poli-

cies and explain their actions to the voters who have elected them. Radio has millions of friends among the nation's youngsters who stay at home to listen to their favorite programs. And when those children are at home, where mother or dad can be with them and guide them, they are less prone to get into trouble. These are but a few of the types of programs presented over our free American system of radio.

MR. BEATON: How does American radio compare with broadcasting in other parts of the world, Judge?

JUDGE MILLER: Radio's most outspoken critics — those who can find fault with anything — continuously admit that American radio is the best in the world.

MR. BEATON: Can you give us an example of how a government-controlled radio system operates?

JUDGE MILLER: There are a number. Two of the strongest examples are no longer with us. I refer to the late system of Nazi-controlled radio and the system which operated for the benefit of a Mr. Mussolini.

MR. BEATON: As I understand it, Judge Miller, those systems did not carry commercial advertising.

JUDGE MILLER: I think we can safely say that those systems — and

all government systems of radio broadcasting — carry more advertising than we do here in the United States. Government-controlled radio advertises the man in power, or the party in power. American radio advertises automobiles, bread, the department store — the million items available to every American home.

Every radio station—every broadcaster in this land — is anxious to serve his listeners to the fullest extent. It is only by maintaining a friendly audience that the radio station can stay in business. I don't know of *any* businessman who wants to lose his friends, his customers, his investment.

Radio is the most powerful means of communication the world has ever known. It reaches more than 35 million of America's 38 million families. Radio helps more people to get more out of life. In maintaining our free system of broadcasting, wherein so wide a variety of program fare is available hour upon hour, American radio has made our people the best informed in the world. By continuing to provide uncensored information, American radio will help us preserve the freedom which makes our nation so fine a place in which to live.

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EDDIE CANTOR: My wife came to me and said, "Eddie, do you think I should wear my skirts longer?" I said, "Yes, at least three years longer."

— EDDIE CANTOR SHOW

# Progress in Television

Frank E. Mullen is interviewed by Tex and Jinx

**TEX:** Movies and the automobile industry took the American people out of their homes; television is going to finish what radio started—put people back into their homes. The family, politics, the church, buying and selling, marriage, movies, every institution, every industry of America is going to feel television in the next five years.

**JINX:** Okay, and today we're making a pioneer play prophet. You're on the spot, Mr. Frank Mullen. How soon will NBC television reach from New York to Hollywood?

**Mr. MULLEN:** Before I answer that question, let's talk about a couple of other things and the time it took to accomplish results. Take railroads, for instance. The first steam railroad locomotive ran in New York State August 9th, 1831, from Albany to Schenectady. But it wasn't until May, 1870—nearly 40 years later—that the railroad linked California and the east. It started

from Boston and took eight days to get to San Francisco. Then in aviation, the first commercial airline ran between Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida, on January 1, 1914. But it wasn't until 1928—14 years later—that an airline carried passengers from Columbus, Ohio, to the coast.

And in radio itself, the first network radio broadcast was on January 4, 1923, between WEAF—now WNBC—and WMAC in Boston. Our first coast-to-coast broadcast originated from California on January 1, 1927—the Rose Bowl football game.

As to your question about Hollywood and New York, our first network telecast was made from New York City to Schenectady on January 12, 1940. Now, I think that within two years NBC will be transmitting television programs from New York to Hollywood or from Hollywood to New York.

**JINX:** That's really something to look forward to in only two years. But what about next year? How fast will television grow by the end of 1948?

**MR. MULLEN:** I think it will grow very rapidly indeed. By the end of 1948 we should have television programs within the reach of 20 or 22 million people. We will have television service in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York

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*Frank E. Mullen was one of the pioneers of radio broadcasting and is now Executive Vice-President of NBC. This discussion with Tex McCrary and Jinx Falkenburg was heard on the "Hi! Jinx" program broadcast by WNBC November 30, 1947.*

City, Schenectady, Boston and perhaps at intermediate points between here and Boston. Television is almost ready to start in Milwaukee and Cleveland. It's on the air in Chicago, St. Louis and Detroit. There will be television in Buffalo without any question, and in Pittsburgh.

TEX: Do you think that some time in 1948 NBC will reach out and link New York and Chicago?

MR. MULLEN: I think there's a good possibility. I believe Chicago will be linked up by very close to the end of 1948.

TEX: Mr. Mullen, let's talk for just a minute about what television may do in politics, because next year in politics is going to be exciting. Jinx and I have seen President Truman on television. We've seen Governor Dewey and Mr. Stassen on television. Do you think that television will have as much effect in political campaigns as radio has had in the past?

MR. MULLEN: I think it will have even a greater effect. I believe that politics will help television to grow next year, and television will help politics to reach the people. As I recall, the voting has almost doubled in this country since the advent of radio broadcasting. And undoubtedly radio has contributed greatly to the political education of our citizens. Television should do it even more effectively, because people like to see who they're voting for as well as to hear them, so that the candidates will have a real job cut out for them. They will

have to be photogenic or telegenic.

TEX: Don't you have some pretty extensive plans for covering both the Democratic and Republican conventions in Philadelphia next spring?

MR. MULLEN: Yes, we have. We're working on them right now. Both political parties chose Philadelphia for their conventions because of television. We have very complete plans under way to give a day-by-day coverage of all the highlights of the conventions. We'll undoubtedly carry a great many of the telecasts directly from the convention floor. We'll present all the candidates.

TEX: Those two conventions will probably create just as much interest in television as the World Series did.

MR. MULLEN: I think they will—even more.

JINX: The movie industry out in Hollywood, I think, is scared to death of television. All the big movie stars are allowed to appear on radio programs, but their contracts say, "No television!" Television is a real nightmare in Hollywood. But how does the radio industry feel about television? By pushing television, aren't you nursing a rival for radio?

MR. MULLEN: No. I went through the early days of radio when we broadcast the first baseball game, when we broadcast the first news dispatch, and also when we broadcast the first church service. In every instance there was the fear

that by putting these events on the radio, somehow attendance would suffer, or the other media would suffer. Today the newspapers of this country have the greatest circulation they've ever had, the motion picture theatres have the greatest attendance they've ever had, and we are selling more phonograph records than were ever sold before, in spite of the fact that radio was supposed to kill that industry.

My experience has been that everything radio has touched it has helped, and my belief is that everything television touches it will equally help.

TEX: Certain people in sports seem to feel that television will kill the gate receipts. How do you feel about that, Mr. Mullen?

MR. MULLEN: I believe very strongly, and am emphatic about it, that television will improve the gate of any sport it touches. We've already had considerable proof of that. As a matter of fact, radio made baseball fans out of most of the women of this country. Prior to the advent of broadcasting, there was a very small feminine attendance at baseball and similar sports. Broadcasting brought the ladies out because they received broadcasts in the home and became familiar with the sport. I think a good many of these people are talking with their tongue in their cheek when they say they're afraid television is going to hurt attendance. We had one experience where a sports promoter came to us and asked us to

please stay with him, because his attendance had improved so much.

JINX: I know that NBC and the Theatre Guild have teamed up to televise a series of fine plays. But how about the future? What will television do to the theatre on Broadway?

MR. MULLEN: There is a fundamental answer to all of these questions. The answer is always the same. If you expose people to good things, they want good things. That's what advertising is. As they learn about good clothes, they want better clothes. As they learn about plays, they want to go to plays. If you put plays into the home, more people will want to see plays on Broadway. It's just an inevitable consequence. Television will sell the whole idea of drama to the American public, more effectively than it's ever been sold before.

TEX: I think the mere fact that the Theatre Guild has teamed up with NBC means that the right people on Broadway are not afraid of what television will do to the theatre.

MR. MULLEN: Yes, I believe that the really important people in any of these fields see the advantages. Take the motion picture for instance. I think there is where perhaps the greatest fear resides, but I have two small children in my home who have seen motion pictures for the first time on television, and their first reaction to their mother was, "When are you going to take me to a movie?" You can't expose

twenty-five or fifty million people to movies in the homes of this country without doing something to augment their desire to go out to motion pictures.

JINX: Mr. Mullen, how soon will people be able to buy television sets as they go into a store and buy a radio now?

MR. MULLEN: Let's refer back to our early days in radio. I recall, in 1923 or 1924, getting a radio set which consisted of two units, one an amplifier unit and one a detector unit, with a storage battery underneath and a horn which was attached to it, representing about the best in radio at that time. The price was \$450. You can buy today in almost any store a set for \$25 that is infinitely superior in technical performance and in quality, and it's one unit. All you do is plug it into the electric light socket.

Television today is regarded by a great many people as being expensive, and of course the price is quite high for a really elaborate set which contains not only television but radio and perhaps a phonograph as well. As we get into mass production—which after all is the key to the American economy—it will be possible to bring the price of television sets down as we have done in the radio set field. With this exception—that I do not believe we shall ever have a television set for \$25 or \$50, or perhaps even much below \$100. If one wants a good set, I think prices will be in the neighborhood of \$200, \$300 or \$400, depending on how elaborate

a set the purchaser really wants. But it is the intention of the radio manufacturing industry to make television sets at the lowest possible price so that they can go into every home in this country. That was their objective in radio, and it is their objective in television.

TEX: Since this is NBC and not BBC, we've got to talk about commercials in America. How are you going to work out the problem of handling advertising on television? Have you faced that problem yet?

MR. MULLEN: Yes, we are facing it every day. We've done a lot of experimental work and we're quite confident that advertising will be the method by which television will be supported in this country and brought to the American home. We think that television represents not only a very fine program service to the home but a very fine and effective advertising medium. And as it is effective it will help our entire economy. It will be up to the advertiser and the broadcaster to work out clever ways in which to present this advertising, ways that will be completely acceptable to our viewers and which in themselves will please and entertain them. A great many people do not recognize that the advertising carried in our daily newspapers and magazines is in itself one of the most potent educational forces we have in this country for raising our standard of living. Advertising on television will be a potent educational force, and consequently will be of almost as much value to our

American way of life as the entertainment itself.

TEX: I think it's possible that commercials in television can be more entertaining than commercials in radio. You have a bigger scope in television than you do in radio.

MR. MULLEN: That's undoubtedly true, because we like to use our eyes as well as our ears, and when we can use them jointly we're going to get a more satisfactory impression.

JINX: A lot of people in Hollywood say that as soon as NBC and the other radio networks do all the pioneering in television, work all the bugs out, then the movie industry will just move in and take over because of their know-how in the picture business. How do you feel about that?

MR. MULLEN: There isn't any question but that the motion picture industry knows its own business better than we do. On the other hand, I'm sure the motion picture industry knows very little about broadcasting. I believe that the broadcaster is the better equipped of the two to run television. However, it's my feeling that this is not going to be a competition between

the motion picture industry and the broadcasters. I think that there are going to be many avenues of cooperation. I believe that we will lean heavily on the experience of the motion picture industry, as they will lean on our broadcasting experience.

JINX: Do you think that movie stars in Hollywood will sign television contracts for maybe a series of television shows every year?

MR. MULLEN: I'm sure they will. I don't believe that you can stop progress, and I think television will get what it needs to become a great service.

TEX: Mr. Mullen, frankly, I hope there's a lot of competition between the radio and television and the movie industry, because from that kind of competition—from that kind of rivalry—the public always profits.

MR. MULLEN: I didn't mean that we shouldn't compete for the attention of the audience or for the superiority of our product. That we should and will. But I believe that, instead of one industry trying to take something away from the other, it will be a matter of cooperation between the two.

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JUDY: Geranium, let's get some face powder on me so I can get purtied up for Mr. Cooper.

GERANIUM: Okay, Miss Judy, but when you get home you better bake him a cake.

JUDY: Bake him a cake? Why?

GERANIUM: Honey, it takes face powder to catch a man and baking powder to hold him.

— JUDY CANOVA SHOW

# A Child is Born

STEPHEN VINCENT BENÉT

NARRATOR: There is a town where men and women live  
Their lives as people do in troubled times,  
Times when the world is shaken. There is an inn.  
A woman sings there in the early morning.

*[Music, fading into the voice of a woman — the innkeeper's wife —  
singing as she goes about her household tasks]*

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: In Bethlehem of Judea

There shall be born a child,  
A child born of woman  
And yet undefiled.

He shall not come to riches,  
To riches and might,  
But in the bare stable  
He shall be Man's light.

He shall not come to conquest,  
The conquest of kings,  
But in the bare stable  
He shall judge all things.

King Herod, King Herod,  
Now what will you say  
Of the child in the stable  
This cold winter day?

*[Sound of steps coming down a flight of stone stairs. A man's voice,  
rough and suspicious — the voice of the innkeeper. The innkeeper  
is middle-aged — his wife somewhat younger]*

INNKEEPER: Singing again! I told you not to sing!

WIFE: I'm sorry. I forgot.

INNKEEPER: Sorry? Forgot? You're always saying that!  
Is it your business what King Herod does?  
Is it your place to sing against King Herod?

WIFE: I think that he must be a wicked man.  
A very wicked man.

INNKEEPER: Oh, la, la, la!  
Sometimes I think your ways will drive me mad.  
Are you a statesman or a general?

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A CHILD IS BORN — Copyright 1942 by Stephen Vincent Benét.

Do you pretend to know the ins and outs  
Of politics and why the great folk do  
The things they do — and why we have to bear them?  
Because it's we — we — we  
Who have to bear them, first and last and always,  
In every country and in every time.  
They grind us like dry wheat between the stones.  
Don't you know that?

WIFE: I know that, somehow, kings  
Should not be wicked and grind down the people.  
I know that kings like Herod should not be.

INNKEEPER: All right — all right. I'm not denying that.  
I'm reasonable enough. I know the world.  
I'm willing to admit to anyone  
At least behind closed doors

*[He drops his voice]*

That Herod isn't quite my sort of king  
And that I don't approve of all he does.  
Still, there he is. He's king. How will it help  
If I go out and write on someone's wall

*[In a whisper]*

“Down with King Herod!”  
*[His voice comes up again]*

What's it worth?  
The cross for me, the whipping post for you,  
The inn burned down, the village fined for treason,  
Just because one man didn't like King Herod.  
For that's the way things are.

WIFE: Yet there are men —

INNKEEPER: Oh yes, I know — fanatics, rabble, fools,  
Outcasts of war, misfits, rebellious souls,  
Seekers of some vague kingdom in the stars —

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*This program was twice broadcast over the NBC network on Dupont's "Cavalcade of America" — December 21, 1942 and December 20, 1943. It was again heard over the network on December 19, 1947 — this time in connection with the NBC weekly program series, "The World's Great Novels."*

*This reprint is slightly abridged from the original script. The complete text of this and nine other radio scripts by the late Stephen Vincent Benét is contained in a volume entitled "We Stand United," published by Farrar and Rinehart, Inc. in 1945.*

They hide out in the hills and stir up trouble,  
Call themselves prophets, too, and prophesy  
That something new is coming to the world,  
The Lord knows what!

Well, it's a long time coming,  
And, meanwhile, we're the wheat between the stones.

WIFE: Something must come.

INNKEEPER: Believe it if you choose,  
But, meantime, if we're clever, we can live  
And even thrive a little — clever wheat  
That slips between the grinding stones and grows  
In little green blade-sprinkles on the ground.  
At least, if you'll not sing subversive songs  
To other people but your poor old husband.

[*Changing tone*]

Come, wife, I've got some news.

I didn't mean to be so angry with you.

You've some queer fancies in that head of yours  
— Lord, don't I know! — but you're still the tall girl  
With the grave eyes and the brook-running voice  
I took without a dower or a price  
Out of your father's house because — oh, well —  
Because you came. And they've not been so bad,  
The years since then. Now have they?

WIFE: No.

INNKEEPER: That's right.

Give us a kiss.

[*Pause*]

I couldn't help the child.  
I know you think of that, this time of year.  
He was my son, too, and I think of him.  
I couldn't help his dying.

WIFE: No, my husband.

INNKEEPER: He stretched his little arms to me and died.  
And yet I had the priest — the high priest, too.  
I didn't spare the money.

WIFE: No, my husband.

I am a barren bough. I think and sing  
And am a barren bough.

INNKEEPER: Oh, come, come, come!

WIFE: The fault is mine. I had my joyous season,  
My season of full ripening and fruit

And then the silence and the aching breast.  
I thought I would have children. I was wrong,  
But my flesh aches to think I do not have them.  
Tell me your news. Is it good news?

INNKEEPER [*eagerly*]: The best!

The prefect comes to dinner here tonight  
With all his officers — oh yes, I know,  
The enemy — of course, the enemy —  
But someone has to feed them.

WIFE: And they'll pay?

INNKEEPER: Cash.

WIFE: On the nail?

INNKEEPER: Yes.

WIFE: Good.

INNKEEPER: I thought you'd say so.  
Oh, we'll make no great profit — not tonight —  
I've seen the bill of fare they asked of me,  
Quails, in midwinter! Well, we'll give them — quails!  
And charge them for them, too! You know the trick?

WIFE: Yes.

INNKEEPER: They must be well served. I'll care for that,  
The honest innkeeper, the thoughtful man,  
Asking, "Your worship, pray another glass  
Of our poor wine! Your worship, is the roast  
Done to your worship's taste? Oh, nay, nay, nay,  
Your worship, all was settled in the bill,  
So do not spoil my servants with largesse,  
Your worship!" — And he won't. He pinches pennies.  
But, once he's come here, he will come again,  
And we shall live, not die, and put some coin,  
Some solid, enemy and lovely coin  
Under the hearthstone, eh?  
Spoil the Egyptians, eh?

[*There is a knock at the outer door*]

INNKEEPER [*grumbling*]: A minute — just a minute!  
It's early yet — you needn't beat the door down.  
This is an honest inn.

[*He shoots the bolts and opens the door, while speaking*]  
Good morning.

SOLDIER'S VOICE: Hail Caesar! Are you the keeper of this inn?

INNKEEPER: Yes, sir.

SOLDIER: Orders from the prefect. No other guests shall be entertained at your inn tonight after sundown. The prefect wishes all the rooms to be at the disposal of his guests.

INNKEEPER: All the rooms?

SOLDIER: You understand plain Latin, don't you?

INNKEEPER: Yes, sir, but —

SOLDIER: This is the prefect's feast — the Saturnalia — You've heard your orders.

INNKEEPER: Yes, sir. Yes, indeed, sir.

SOLDIER: See they are carried out! No other guests! Hail Caesar!

INNKEEPER [feeble]: Hail Caesar!

[*He slams the door*]

Well, that's pleasant.

All rooms at the disposal of the prefect!

No other guests! No other guests. Remember

No other guests!

WIFE: I will remember.

INNKEEPER: Do so.

It is an order. Now, about the quail.

You'll make the sauce. That's the important thing.

A crow can taste like quail, with a good sauce.

You have your herbs?

WIFE: Yes.

INNKEEPER: Well then, begin, begin!

Leah and Sarah, come and help your mistress!

I'll rouse the fools! There's work to do today!

[*He stamps up the stairs. She moves about her business*]

WIFE [singing]: In Bethlehem of Judea

There was an inn also.

There was no room within it

For any but the foe.

No child might be born there.

No bud come to bloom.

For there was no chamber.

And there was no room.

[*Her voice fades off into music which swells up and down*]

NARRATOR: And the day passed and night fell on the town,  
Silent and still and cold. The houses lay  
Huddled and dark beneath the watching stars  
And only the inn windows streamed with light —

[Fade into offstage noise of a big party going on upstairs]

VOICE [offstage]: Quiet, gentlemen, quiet — the prefect wishes to say a few words —

PREFECT'S VOICE [off]: Gentlemen — men of Rome — mindful of Rome's historic destiny — and of our good friend King Herod — who has chosen alliance with Rome rather than a useless struggle — keep them under with a firm hand —

SARAH: What is he saying up there?

LEAH: I don't know.

I don't know the big words. The soldier said —

SARAH: You and your soldier!

LEAH: Oh, he's not so bad.

He brought me a trinket — see!

SARAH: You and your Roman trinkets! I hate serving them. I'd like to spit in their cups each time I serve them.

LEAH: You wouldn't dare!

SARAH: Wouldn't I, though?

[There are steps on the stairs as the innkeeper comes down]

INNKEEPER: Here, here,

What's this, what's this, why are you standing idle?

They're calling for more wine!

SARAH: Let Leah serve them.

She likes their looks!

WIFE: Sarah!

SARAH [sighs]: Yes, mistress.

WIFE: Please, Sarah — we've talked like this so many times.

SARAH: Very well, mistress. But let her go first.

[To Leah]

Get up the stairs, you little soldier's comfort!

I hope he pinches you!

LEAH: Mistress, it's not my fault. Does Sarah have to —

WIFE: Oh, go, go — both of you!

[They mutter and go upstairs]

INNKEEPER: Well, that's a pretty little tempest for you.

You ought to beat the girl. She's insolent.

Why do you sit there, staring at the fire,

So silent and so waiting and so still?

[Unearthly music, very faint at first, begins with the next speech and builds through the scene]

WIFE: I do not know. I'm waiting.

INNKEEPER: Waiting for what?

WIFE: I do not know. For something new and strange,  
Something I've dreamt about in some deep sleep,  
Truer than any waking,  
Heard about, long ago, so long ago,  
In sunshine and the summer grass of childhood,  
When the sky seems so near.

I do not know its shape, its will, its purpose  
And yet all day its will has been upon me,  
More real than any voice I ever heard,  
More real than yours or mine or our dead child's,  
More real than all the voices there upstairs,  
Brawling above their cups, more real than light.  
And there is light in it and fire and peace,  
Newness of heart and strangeness like a sword,  
And all my body trembles under it,  
And yet I do not know.

INNKEEPER: You're tired, my dear.  
Well, we shall sleep soon.

WIFE: No, I am not tired.

I am expectant as a runner is  
Before a race, a child before a feast day,  
A woman at the gates of life and death,  
Expectant for us all, for all of us  
Who live and suffer on this little earth  
With such small brotherhood. Something begins.  
Something is full of change and sparkling stars.  
Something is loosed that changes all the world.

*[Music up and down]*

And yet — I cannot read it yet. I wait  
And strive — and cannot find it.

*[A knock at the door]*

Hark? What's that?

INNKEEPER: They can't come in. I don't care who they are.  
We have no room.

*[Knock is repeated]*

WIFE: Go to the door!

*[He goes and opens the door]*

INNKEEPER: Well?

*[Strain of music]*

JOSEPH *[from outside]* Is this the inn? Sir, we are travelers  
And it is late and cold. May we enter?

WIFE [*eagerly*]: Who is it?

INNKEEPER [*to her*]: Just a pair of country people,  
A woman and a man. I'm sorry for them

But —

JOSEPH: My wife and I are weary,  
May we come in?

INNKEEPER: I'm sorry, my good man.  
We have no room tonight. The prefect's orders.

JOSEPH: No room at all?

INNKEEPER: Now, now, it's not my fault.  
You look like honest and well-meaning folk  
And nobody likes turning trade away  
But I'm not my own master. Not tonight.  
It may be, in the morning —

[*He starts to close the door*]

WIFE: Wait!

INNKEEPER [*in a fierce whisper*]: Must you mix in this?

WIFE: Wait!

[*She goes to the door*]

Good sir, the enemy are in our house

And we —

[*She sees the Virgin, who does not speak throughout this scene  
but is represented by music*]

WIFE: Oh.

[*Music*]

WIFE [*haltingly*]: I — did not see your wife. I did not know.

JOSEPH [*simply*]: Her name is Mary. She is near her time.

WIFE: Yes. Yes.

[*To the innkeeper*]

Go — get a lantern.

Quickly!

INNKEEPER: What?

WIFE: Quickly!

[*To Joseph and Mary*]

I — I once had a child.

We have no room. That's true.

And it would not be right. Not here. Not now.

Not with those men whose voices you can hear,

Voices of death and iron. — King Herod's voices.

Better the friendly beasts. What am I saying?

There is — we have a stable at the inn,  
Safe from the cold, at least — and, if you choose,  
You shall be very welcome. It is poor  
But the poor share the poor their crumbs of bread  
Out of God's hand, so gladly,  
And that may count for something. Will you share it?

JOSEPH: Gladly and with great joy.

WIFE: The lantern, husband!

JOSEPH: Nay, I will take it. I can see the path.  
Come!

[*Music up. Joseph and Mary go. Innkeeper and wife watch them*]

WIFE: Something begins, begins;  
Starlit and sunlit, something walks abroad  
In flesh and spirit and fire.

Something is loosed to change the shaken world.

[*Music up and down. A bell strikes the hour*]

NARRATOR: The night deepens. The stars march in the sky.  
The prefect's men are gone. The inn is quiet  
Save for the sleepy servants and their mistress,  
Who clean the last soiled pots.  
The innkeeper drowses before the fire.  
But, in the street, outside —

[*Music, changing into a shepherd's carol*]

1ST SHEPHERD: As we poor shepherds watched by night

CHORUS: With a hey, with a ho.

1ST SHEPHERD: A star shone over us so bright  
We left our flocks to seek its light

CHORUS: In excelsis deo,  
Gloria, gloria,  
In excelsis deo.

1ST SHEPHERD: Now how may such a matter be?

CHORUS: With a hey, with a ho.

1ST SHEPHERD: That we of earth, poor shepherds we,  
May look on Jesu's majesty?  
And yet the star says — "It is He!"

2ND SHEPHERD: It is He!

3RD SHEPHERD: It is He!

CHORUS: Sing excelsis deo!  
Gloria, gloria  
In excelsis deo!

SARAH: Who sings so late? How can they sing so late?

LEAH: I'll go and see.

Wait — I'll rub the windowpane.

It's rimed with frost.

[*She looks out*]

They're shepherds from the hills.

WIFE: Shepherds?

LEAH: Yes, mistress. They have crooks and staves.  
Their tattered cloaks are ragged on their backs.  
Their hands are blue and stinging with the cold  
And yet they all seem drunken, not with wine  
But with good news. Their faces shine with it.

WIFE: Cold — and so late. Poor creatures — call them in.  
The prefect's men are gone.

LEAH: Aye but — the master —

WIFE: He's dozing. Do as I tell you.

LEAH [*calling out*]: Come in — come in — tarry awhile and rest!

SHEPHERDS [*joyously*]: We cannot stay. We follow the bright  
star.

Gloria, gloria  
In excelsis deo!

WIFE: Where did they go? Would they not stay with us?  
Not one?

LEAH: Mistress, they did not even look on me.  
They looked ahead. They have gone toward the stable,  
The stable of our inn.

LEAH [*excitedly*]: Aye — gone but — Mistress! Mistress!  
Do you hear?

WIFE: Hear what?

LEAH: The tread of steeds on the hard ground,  
Iron-hoofed, ringing clear — a company  
That comes from out the East. I've never seen  
Such things. I am afraid. These are great lords,  
Great kings, with strange and memorable beasts,  
And crowns upon their heads!

INNKEEPER [*waking*]: What's that? What's that?  
Lords, nobles, kings, here in Bethlehem,  
In our poor town? What fortune! O, what fortune!  
Stand from the window there, you silly girl,  
I'll speak to them!

[*He calls out*]

My gracious noble masters,  
Worthy and mighty kings! Our humble inn  
Is honored by your high nobility!  
Come in — come in — we've fire and beds and wine!  
Come in — come in — tarry awhile and rest!

KING'S VOICES [*joyfully*]: We cannot stay! We follow the bright star!

Gloria, gloria  
In excelsis deo!

INNKEEPER: I do not understand it. They are gone.  
They did not even look at me or pause  
Though there's no other inn.  
They follow the poor shepherds to the stable.

WIFE: They would not tarry with us — no, not one.

INNKEEPER: And yet —

WIFE: Peace, husband. You know well enough  
Why none would tarry with us.  
And so do I. I lay awhile in sleep  
And a voice said to me, "Gloria, gloria,  
Gloria in excelsis deo.

The child is born, the child, the child is born!"  
And yet I did not rise and go to him,  
Though I had waited and expected long,  
For I was jealous that my child should die  
And her child live.

And so — I have my judgment. And it is just.

INNKEEPER: Dreams.

WIFE: Were they dreams, the shepherds and the kings?  
Is it a dream, this glory that we feel  
Streaming upon us — and yet not for us?

LEAH: Now, mistress, mistress, 'tis my fault not yours.  
You told me seek the strangers in the stable  
And see they had all care but I — forgot.

SARAH: Kissing your soldier!

LEAH: Sarah!

SARAH: I am sorry, Leah.  
My tongue's too sharp. Mistress, the fault was mine.  
You told me also and I well remembered  
Yet did not go.

WIFE: Sarah.

SARAH: I did not go.

Brooding on mine own wrongs, I did not go.  
It was my fault.

INNKEEPER: If there was any fault, wife, it was mine.  
I did not wish to turn them from my door  
And yet — I know I love the chink of money,  
Love it too well, the good, sound, thumping coin,  
Love it — oh, God, since I am speaking truth,  
Better than wife or fire or chick or child,  
Better than country, better than good fame,  
Would sell my people for it in the street,  
Oh, for a price — but sell them.  
And there are many like me. And God pity us.

WIFE: God pity us indeed, for we are human,  
And do not always see  
The vision when it comes, the shining change,  
Or, if we see it, do not follow it,  
Because it is too hard, too strange, too new,  
Too unbelievable, too difficult,  
Warring too much with common, easy ways,  
And now I know this, standing in this light,  
Who have been half alive these many years,  
Brooding on my own sorrow, my own pain,  
Saying "I am a barren bough. Expect  
Nor fruit nor blossom from a barren bough."  
Life is not lost by dying! Life is lost  
Minute by minute, day by dragging day,  
In all the thousand, small, uncaring ways,  
The smooth appeasing compromises of time,  
Which are King Herod and King Herod's men,  
Always and always. Life can be  
Lost without vision but not lost by death,  
Lost by not caring, willing, going on  
Beyond the ragged edge of fortitude  
To something more — something no man has seen.  
You who love money, you who love yourself,  
You who love bitterness, and I, who loved  
And lost and thought I could not love again,  
And all the people of this little town,  
Rise up! The loves we had were not enough.  
Something is loosed to change the shaken world,  
And with it we must change!

[*The voice of Dismas, the thief, breaking in — a rather quizzical, independent voice*]

DISMAS: Now that's well said!

INNKEEPER: Who speaks there? Who are you?

DISMAS: Who? Oh, my name is Dismas. I'm a thief.  
You know the starved, flea-bitten sort of boy  
Who haunts dark alleyways in any town,  
Sleeps on a fruit sack, runs from the police,  
Begs what he can and — borrows what he must.  
That's me!

INNKEEPER: How did you get here?

DISMAS: By the door, innkeeper,  
The cellar door. The lock upon it's old.  
I could pick locks like that when I was five.

INNKEEPER: What have you taken?

DISMAS: Nothing.

I tried the stable first — and then your cellar,  
Slipped in, crept up, rolled underneath a bench,  
While all your honest backs were turned — and then —

WIFE: And then?

DISMAS: Well — something happened. I don't know what.  
I didn't see your shepherds or your kings,  
But, in the stable, I did see the child,  
Just through a crack in the boards — one moment's space.  
That's all that I can tell you.

[*Passionately*]

Is he for me as well? Is he for me?

WIFE: For you as well.

DISMAS: Is he for all of us?

There are so many of us, worthy mistress,  
Beggars who show their sores and ask for alms,  
Women who cough their lungs out in the cold,  
Slaves — oh, I've been one — thieves and runagates  
Who knife each other for a bite of bread,  
Having no other way to get the bread,  
— The vast sea of the wretched and the poor,  
Whose murmur comes so faintly to your ears  
In this fine country.  
Has he come to all of us  
Or just to you?

WIFE: To every man alive.

DISMAS: I wish I could believe.

SARAH [*scornfully*]: And, if you did,

No doubt you'd give up thieving!

DISMAS: Gently, lady, gently.

Thieving's my trade — the only trade I know.

But, if it were true,

If he had really come to all of us —

I say, to all of us —

Then, honest man or thief,

I'd hang upon a cross for him!

[*A shocked pause. The others mutter*]

DISMAS: Would *you*?

[*Another pause*]

I see that I've said something you don't like,  
Something uncouth and bold and terrifying,  
And yet, I'll tell you this:

It won't be till each one of us is willing,

Not you, not me, but every one of us,

To hang upon a cross for every man

Who suffers, starves and dies,

Fight his sore battles as they were our own,

And help him from the darkness and the mire,

That there will be no crosses and no tyrants,

No Herods and no slaves.

[*Another pause*]

Well, it was pleasant, thinking things might be so.

And so I'll say farewell. I've taken nothing.

And he was a fair child to look on.

WIFE: Wait!

DISMAS: Why? What is it you see there, by the window?

WIFE: The dawn, the common day,

The ordinary, poor and mortal day.

The shepherds and the kings have gone away.

The great angelic visitors are gone.

He is alone. He must not be alone.

INNKEEPER: I do not understand you, wife.

DISMAS: Nor I.

WIFE: Do you not see, because I see at last?

Dismas, the thief, is right.

He comes to all of us or comes to none.

Not to my heart in joyous recompense

For what I lost — not to your heart or yours,

But to the ignorant heart of all the world,

So slow to alter, so confused with pain.  
Do you not see he must not be alone?

INNKEEPER: I think that I begin to see. And yet —

WIFE: We are the earth his word must sow like wheat  
And, if it finds no earth, it cannot grow.  
We are his earth, the mortal and the dying,  
Led by no star — the sullen and the slut,  
The thief, the selfish man, the barren woman,  
Who have betrayed him once and will betray him,  
Forget his words, be great a moment's space  
Under the strokes of chance,  
And then sink back into our small affairs,  
And yet, unless *we* go, his message fails.

LEAH: Will he bring peace, will he bring brotherhood?

WIFE: He would bring peace, he would bring brotherhood.  
And yet he will be mocked at in the street.

SARAH: Will he slay King Herod  
And rule us all?

WIFE: He will not slay King Herod. He will die.  
There will be other Herods, other tyrants,  
Great wars and ceaseless struggles to be free,  
Not always won.

INNKEEPER: These are sad tidings of Him.

WIFE: No, no — they are glad tidings of great joy,  
Because He brings man's freedom in His hands,  
Not as a coin that may be spent or lost  
But as a living fire within the heart,  
Never quite quenched — because He brings to all,  
The thought, the wish, the dream of brotherhood,  
Never and never to be wholly lost,  
The water and the bread of the oppressed,  
The stay and succor of the resolute,  
The harness of the valiant and the brave,  
The new word that has changed the shaken world.  
And, though He die, His word shall grow like wheat  
And every time a child is born,  
In pain and love and freedom hardly won,  
Born and gone forth to help and aid mankind,  
There will be women with a right to say  
“Gloria, gloria in excelsis deo!  
A child is born!”

# When the Cable Cars Came to San Francisco

SAMUEL DICKSON

**A**NDREW Smith Hallidie was born in London in 1836. His mother and father were Scotch. The boy, Andrew, found work at the age of thirteen in a machine shop, and his interests throughout life were influenced by his knowledge and skill in mechanical invention.

Now it happened that the boy's father had a certain interest in lands owned by General Fremont out in the wilds of California, and when California became the focal center of world interest and everybody who could find the way started for the gold fields, Smith senior joined the cavalcade. And with him he brought young Andrew.

They arrived in the port of San Francisco in 1852. Andrew was sixteen years old. The father and son parted company in the seaport village and the senior Smith drops out of the story. Andrew went to the gold mines. He dug for gold and panned gold and experimented in inventing sluices and rockers; he surveyed claims, he worked at road building and bridge building, and after three years in the gold fields, he constructed a cable-suspended viaduct over the American River. A cable-suspended viaduct! From that day Andrew Hallidie's life work was the building of cables.

Andrew Hallidie then came to San Francisco. He developed powerful cables of twisted steel wire capable of hauling heavy loads; he built a steel-cable company, and grew wealthy.

One day, according to the legends that are told, he went for a walk up a San Francisco Hill. It was in the winter of 1869 — a cold, dismal, wet winter. As he walked, head bent to wind and driving rain, he saw a horse-car approaching. Horse-cars were the only means of commercial locomotion in the city. The car was being hauled by four horses — a car crowded to the plat-

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*This bit of early California history comes from a program series entitled "This Is Your Home," sponsored by W. & J. Sloane and broadcast by NBC's San Francisco station KNBC. Mr. Dickson's weekly stories, featuring the romance and legends of his native city, are read by Bud Heyde. It is of interest to note that in a recent referendum the citizens of San Francisco voted to retain their cable cars.*

form with San Franciscans evading the storm. The horses wheezed and panted and labored, dragging the unwieldy burden up the hill, and their iron shoes slipped on the wet cobblestones, and progress was almost out of the question. Suddenly, half-way up the hill, one of the horses slipped and fell. The driver of the car threw on his brake, but he threw it on so quickly that the chain holding the brake snapped in two, and the car commenced to slide swiftly backwards down the hill, dragging the four screaming horses after it. The four tortured beasts were piled up in a heap when the car reached the foot of the hill, bruised, bleeding, with bones broken, their flesh pounded by the cobblestones.

Andrew Hallidie went home and sat and stared out into the mist and rain that drenched the city, and pictured the suffering beasts. It was impractical, cruel, inhumane. So Andrew Hallidie, master-builder of cables, combined his trade with his humanitarian instincts, and built a car that could be pulled up hill and down at will by cables driven by steam power.

He raised funds and incorporated a railroad company. He was granted franchises to operate his trick car on Clay Street from Kearney to Leavenworth.

The city laughed. They called it Hallidie's Folly. They said no cable and no power on earth could drag a car up the Clay Street Hill. And no citizen would be mad

enough to risk his life riding on the car if the trip was attempted. Not up the hill, nor down the hill! What was to prevent the contraption rushing at break-neck speed down the hill, killing everything and everyone on its way? Why, a man might as well risk his life trying to fly through space in a flying machine!

But Andy Hallidie went ahead with his job. He had perfected cables that would withstand strain. He had invented a grip that would seize the traveling cable and travel with it, and release it at will. He had his franchise, and now he had to run a cable-car up and down the Clay Street Hill on August 1, 1873, or lose all he had ventured.

**A**T midnight of July 31 a small group of men gathered at the steam-power house at Leavenworth and Clay. They gathered — tired, nervous — and inspected the preparations. They tested the cables, measured the steam power, tested the grip, the brakes, and as dawn broke they were ready to make the first journey. Fog poured in through the Golden Gate and over the hills. The foot of the Clay Street Hill was lost in the fog.

The chosen workman took his place, grasped the handle of the grip, and Hallidie shouted, "Jimmie, are you ready?" Jimmie looked again, down into the billowing fog below, and shook his head. It was a mad, impossible adventure. No

man would dare go plunging down that hill submerged in fog. He turned pale, and climbed off the car. And Andrew Hallidie, taking his place, released the brakes, seized the cable with the grip, and slowly the car rolled down the hill, and came to its destined stop at the turn-table at Kearney Street.

Well, that was one thing! It was natural that a body, heavier than air, would roll down a hill. But could the cable drag the cumbersome thing up the hill again? Hallidie shoved the turn-table around, and the little car pointed its nose up the hill. Hallidie released the brakes, the grip seized the cable, and up Clay Street block after block rolled the gallant little car.

Exciting? Yes, it was a breathtaking adventure. A new era was born. But there were no cheers, no blaring bands. Hallidie and his friends stood solemnly at Leavenworth Street after the run had been made and quietly shook hands; that was all. No, not all, for among the legends of that night, it is told that an excited Frenchman thrust his head out of a window as the little car rolled by and threw a bouquet of flowers on it.

That was the night of July 31, and the dawn of August 1, 1873. On the afternoon of August 1, civic dignitaries, firemen, policemen and citizens gathered to see the first official and public journey of the Clay Street Cable Car.

Oh, there were mishaps. The enthusiastic crowd mobbed the little

turn-table and broke a bolt shoving it around. The bolt was replaced. Then the mob crowded on the car. It was built to carry not more than twenty-six people; was overburdened with ninety enthusiasts. On the steepest hill between Powell and Mason the car balked, the grip skidded. Another delay was suffered while the grip pulley was sanded. But the journey ended triumphantly. Cable cars had come to San Francisco.

**F**UNNY? Yes, of course the cable cars were funny contraptions in those days. And they're funny contraptions today, as they climb the Powell Street hill, and climb the California Street hill, and roll out Jackson Street to the western addition that they helped build. They're just as funny as the little flower stands that display their pageants of color along Grant Avenue and Stockton Street.

Of course, they've lost some of their charm. They no longer stop in the middle of the block so you can step from the car to your front door. They no longer carry live-stock. We're thinking of the day when the Pacific Avenue cable-car used to pick up little Tom Williams' Shetland pony at the stables at Pacific near Polk and take him up the hill to Pacific and Divisadero. And there young Tom would be waiting, and the gripman would lift the pony off the car and Tom would climb into the saddle and

head west for his daily ride. They no longer strain at their leash carrying the thousands and tens of thousands down the Fillmore Street Hill to the dream world that was the Exposition of 1915. They no longer rattle out Fulton Street, as they did in the days when the gripman would throw on the brakes, and then climb off the car and go to the

entrance of the ball park to find out, for the information of the passengers, what the score was.

But they're still a part of the tradition and the romance and the color and the fascination of San Francisco. And they're still dragging San Franciscans up the hills that electric cars and buses have not as yet mastered.

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## Rescue at Sea

"Forty-four persons have been taken off, and twenty-five people remain on board the plane. The plane is in pretty good shape. The weather has moderated a bit. We loaded one of our boats from one of our big rafts. We did succeed after dark in getting another big raft secured to the plane but the people didn't show much disposition to get in after dark, and our boat had quite a bit of trouble in seeing the thing and maneuvering, and we decided to wait until daylight to resume operations. We think we have an even chance to get these people off after we can see better. What we've been doing is to make an oil slick down-wind of the plane, and then go up-wind of the plane and form a lee with the ship. The people in the plane get in a rubber raft and our boat takes them out of the raft and we go alongside the boat and they come on board in nets and swimmers go aboard and help them. We can't have the boat go alongside the plane because they probably would both get smashed up and that would stop operations very quickly and everyone would have to go overboard in life jackets. So we think the best thing to do is what we're doing. We took eleven small children off today and two babies, and there was one woman left on the plane. I don't believe she was in condition to leave at the time. She became frightened and didn't want to leave. I think she'll do all right tomorrow. It's quite something to take little babies on a raft and put them off on a boat and bring them on board. It gives you a thrill that you've never had before."

— CAPTAIN PAUL B. CRONK, *aboard the U. S. Coast Guard cutter BIBB in mid-Atlantic while engaged in rescuing passengers and crew of the flying-boat BERMUDA QUEEN. Capt. Cronk's voice, relayed by short wave from ship to shore, was heard over the NBC network in the late evening, October 14, 1947*

# The Problem of Mental Illness

## A University of Chicago Round Table Discussion

DR. APPEL: The problem of nervous and mental disease is a bigger one than cancer, tuberculosis, and infantile paralysis combined. Therefore, it is of concern to a hundred and forty million American people. The care of patients in public hospitals for mental illness is one of dire distress, a calamity, and a national emergency. There are 625,000 patients in public mental hospitals in the United States. Over 200,000 enter state hospitals yearly. Each state has ten, twenty, forty thousand in its mental hospitals.

No one knows whom mental illness will strike next. It strikes one in five families, one in thirteen people. Over a million persons now living will find themselves in a mental hospital within the next ten

years, and probably fourteen million will suffer from either a mental illness or a serious nervous breakdown sometime in their lives. Private hospitals and sanitaria are a mere sneeze in the solution of this problem.

DR. BROSIN: It is interesting to many of us that old age enters into these figures regarding state hospital admissions. More than 50 per cent of the admissions in one of the hospitals of which I know are persons over fifty years of age. In another state hospital more than 50 per cent of the admissions were well over sixty years of age. It may be a surprise to many of us that senile psychoses and arteriosclerotics form the single largest diagnostic group, even exceeding the schizophrenias. But these facts and figures hardly describe the actual circumstances which are now prevalent.

Will you describe, in more detail, some of the conditions with which you are acquainted, Dr. Barton?

DR. BARTON: No single description will apply to all mental hospitals, but the conditions described in magazines and in newspapers do exist in state hospitals.

The shortage of personnel is extreme. There are not enough doc-

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*Kenneth E. Appel is professor of clinical psychiatry at University of Pennsylvania Medical School. Henry W. Brosin is professor of psychiatry at University of Chicago. Walter E. Barton is superintendent of Boston State Hospital. William C. Menninger is medical director of Menninger Sanitarium in Topeka, Kansas. This discussion was broadcast over the NBC network, September 21, 1947.*

tors, nurses, aids, occupational therapists, social workers, or other professional workers. There is overcrowding from 10 to 30 per cent. The average overcrowding in the sixteen state hospitals in my state of Massachusetts is 21 per cent; in three states it exceeds 50 per cent. That means beds in corridors and in day halls, with no place left for the patients. The food is inadequate — sufficient neither in quality nor in quantity. How can a patient be fed properly on the twenty-five cents a day which is allowed in many states? The diet is under twenty-five hundred calories and is deficient in fruits and vegetables. Often times it is less than prisoners in jails get. It is pitiful to see hungry patients, thin and undernourished, wolfsing food like animals.

There is a lack of bedding and insufficient clothing. I wonder whether we realize what that means. Last week a superintendent of a state hospital in the South told us that many of the patients in his state have no beds to sleep on at all — a pile of unhulled cotton, thrown in a heap on the floor, serves as a bed. Patients there slept in dirt, discomfort, and vermin.

Patients are herded like animals and are regimented. Still, many state hospitals have patients who sit in idleness, spending all their waking hours on benches, vegetating and deteriorating. They are often neglected and are sometimes abused, but I think that it is fair to say that the abuse is more often verbal than physical.

Poor wages and poor living conditions will not attract persons with an abundance of human kindness and an absorbing interest in their fellowmen.

DR. BROSIN: Dr. Appel, will you not add your report on the conditions you have seen in our state mental hospitals?

DR. APPEL: The conditions are shocking, monstrous, and horrible. The majority of public mental hospitals do not give treatment; they give custody, poor at that. Almost nothing is done for individual patients; they are herded like sheep. There is limited personnel, both as to doctors and nurses and attendants. There is a time shortage, therefore. All personnel carry impossible loads. All this leads to overcrowding, neglect, and loneliness.

Herding means mass methods and lack of consideration. The attendants who have most intimate contact with patients are ill-paid, ill-housed, and ill-considered. They live in intolerable conditions. No wonder that the only persons who will fill these jobs are often down and out, unsuccessful, improvident, bitter, and with little education. Automobiles get better attention than most mental patients today. The grass surrounding the state hospitals receives more care and consideration than do the patients inside.

What does this herding mean? Persons are treated en masse. The individual patient is given little or no consideration, for there is no

ime left for him. He is herded to neals, to a walk sometimes, to a shop, and to sleep. This neglect of the individual — lack of consideration for the care of the individual which is the basis of modern treatment in psychiatry—is foreign to our way of life. It is out of place in our thinking. It is disastrous in the care of the unfortunates who, through no fault of their own, find themselves mentally ill.

Starvation of the spirit and lack of friendliness, of consideration, of help, are often worse than starvation of the body. No wonder patients in our mental hospitals lie around spiritless, hopeless, and half-dead. Florence Nightingale said, "Hope is the greatest physician." We are depriving our people, unwittingly, of this greatest of all help.

**DR. BROSIN:** Why do these conditions continue?

**DR. APPEL:** The public does not know these conditions. One reason is the general fear of mental illness. Another is the confidence people have always had in doctors, which comes down from time immemorial. They have been taught to believe that, if a patient is turned over to a doctor and a hospital, he will receive treatment. They have infinite trust in doctors and in the hospitals which our communities have set up to take care of sick people. They simply do not know conditions, or they would not tolerate them. They have also believed that mental illness, by a stroke of fate,

is hopeless and that their friends and relatives are receiving the only treatment possible, namely, custody. Treatment by custody makes mental illness worse. In one survey individual treatment was practically absent.

**DR. BROSIN:** One deterrent to better mental care is the higher cost involved. What are some of the current estimates?

**DR. BARTON:** For the country as a whole, according to Michael Davis, a medical economist, it costs a hundred and eighty million dollars a year for the care of all patients in mental hospitals.

Dr. Menninger, my impression is that you have some feeling on this matter?

**DR. MENNINGER:** Yes, I have a lot of feeling. I think that the figure of a hundred and eighty million dollars a year, while it may sound like a great deal to some people, is really, by contrast, an indication of the callousness, the ignorance, and the total indifference of the treatment of our mental patients. Why do I think that?

First, to give some contrasting figures, we spend eight and a half times as much for jewelry as we do for the care of our mentally ill; we spend fifteen times as much for tobacco; we spend thirty-eight times as much for alcohol — seven billion, six hundred million dollars annually for alcohol.

Look at it another way. I mentioned alcohol. I think that it is

significant that it is fairly reasonably and accurately estimated that chronic alcoholism alone annually costs eight hundred million dollars. In contrast, for all our state hospitals we spend, at the maximum, a hundred and eighty million.

There is another figure which, I think, is further indicative of our apathy toward this problem. Our Congress, in its generosity, appropriated five times as much money for the study of plant disease as it did for mental health this last year.

That is why I have some feeling about it.

**DR. BROSIN:** How do we spend what little money we do have?

**DR. BARTON:** Last year, in the state of Massachusetts, 12.6 per cent of the state's budget went to the care of the mentally ill. It was 26 per cent in New York. Throughout the country about one-quarter of the total money spent by the various states in their budgets goes for the care of the mentally ill. The average cost for care per patient-day is a dollar. In Massachusetts, in my own hospital, it is \$1.54; in New York hospitals it is about \$2.00 per day. Contrast this cost with the cost of care in general hospitals, which averages \$9.00 per patient-day. Certainly the minimum treatment cost in state hospitals for mental illness ought to be from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per day.

**DR. BROSIN:** What are the improved methods of treatment? In your experience on the firing line as a hos-

pital superintendent, Dr. Barton, what would you say can be done through improved treatment?

**DR. BARTON:** Treatment needs in state hospitals differ in the two main groups of patients, the acute and the chronic. The acute patient requires care in a separate unit, away from chronic patients. He should have about a ninety-day residence there. There must be enough doctors to carry out intensive study of each patient — doctors with enough time to give intensive individual treatment ("psychotherapy," we call it) to every patient who needs it. New patients require good nursing care and enough trained psychiatric nurses and aids to carry it out. There must be prompt application of special treatment where indicated — such things as electrical stimulation (shock therapy), insulin, narcoticsynthesis, hydrotherapy, the active use of occupational therapy and recreation, and social service to shape family attitudes and to prepare the way for the patient's return to the community.

The continued-treatment or chronic case needs to have his treatment directed toward reintegration and resocialization. Kindly personal interest by psychiatric aids is required, as are clean beds and enough wholesome food to eat, some useful work to do, some play and relaxation, and some hope. I am confident that, with the complete application of this basic treatment program and modern facilities for therapy, recovery rates can be increased by

more than a third and length of stay in a state hospital be significantly reduced.

**DR. APPEL:** Studies in Ohio show that in a new type of active-treatment receiving hospital where procedures of admission are easy, where legal commitment with its stigma is not necessary, and where early concentrated modern treatment is given, 50 per cent of the patients are back home in less than a month, and 90 per cent in less than three and a half months, which is a much greater rate of recovery than in the usual mental hospital.

**DR. MENNINGER:** I think that when you give those figures, we have to admit that we really do not know what the national average is — how many patients leave state hospitals in a happy, well-adjusted condition. In passing, about this treatment program, I want to stick in an oar, because I think that, whether it is in a state hospital or anywhere else, a psychiatric treatment program must have some very special provisions.

First, we should get a chance to treat patients early. In psychiatry, more than any other field, the psychiatrist does not get a chance to treat a patient until after he has been sick many, many months, and this is particularly true in our state hospitals. We take patients there after they have been ill so long that the doctor does not have half a chance. I think that, if people understood that early treatment

would be much more effective and successful, they would not be so reluctant to seek it.

Another major change is to create in our state hospitals an atmosphere of optimism that patients are going to get well. Very honestly, we know that in many cases it is a hopeless despair that pervades the whole situation. And I cannot pass up the chance, too, to mention that the real heart of psychiatric treatment is the interpersonal relations between two people, the doctor and the patient. If a doctor does not have time enough to listen to his patient while the patient tells his story — to give, by his listening, some release to the patient's feeling, to give to the patient in return some understanding and some recommendations as to how he can change himself — then I think that we fail and will continue to fail in our mission of treatment. We call that "psychotherapy," but it can be done only if we have adequately trained personnel.

**DR. BROSIN:** Most of us feel that individual psychotherapy is highly essential and expensive. It is expensive because psychotherapy is a special variety of human relationship between two persons, in which the competent therapist has a special knowledge of the anatomy of the personality and the processes of symptom formation. This is in sharp contrast to the mass methods of treatment by shock therapy.

What, in your opinion, Dr. Barton, is the value of shock therapy?

DR. BARTON: Shock therapy certainly is not a cure-all. Relatives of patients are inspired with the dramatic appeal of a machine that will cure. Doctors, too, succumb to its magic. While it does help depressions, excitements, and some withdrawn types, it does not help many others of the most common forms of mental sickness.

DR. MENNINGER: I think that shock therapy over the United States is being very grossly misused. Many physicians, perhaps (and I will hope) through ignorance, are applying it in many different types of problems in which it is entirely unjustified. They are trying to use it in offices, which is a very questionable procedure. I think that we ought to be outspoken and frank that those of us, or at least some of us, in psychiatry strongly disapprove of this current utilization of shock treatment for all kinds of problems.

DR. BROSIN: At this point we might ask what the responsibility of the individual is. What should John Smith do about the challenge facing mental hospitals? What can the average citizen do?

DR. MENNINGER: First, I think that we have to make it clear that the state hospitals are the responsibility of the public and not of medicine per se. If changes are going to be brought about, it is through the intelligent public making the law-makers and the public officials aware

of their interest and wishes. They are the ones who are responsible, and they must be made to feel so. They are not likely to act without pressure.

Second, I think that the thing that John Smith has to do is to inform himself first, and I mean study. He can do that by a visit to the state hospital. In one state it is compulsory that all state legislators visit the state hospital once a year; we wish that every state required it.

Third, anyone can, if he requests it, obtain a copy of the annual report of any state hospital. He can read and find out what the local lay of the land is. Often the average layman can discover something from his physician friends, from his own personal physician, and can get their impressions as to what the status is and what can be done.

Then I think that one ought to be equipped to ask certain questions — pertinent questions — of the person who runs the state hospital, perhaps the superintendent, for the purpose of getting information that he can act on intelligently.

What are the criteria of a good state hospital?

First, is there any political interference?

Second, what is the method of commitment? Is it a legal process or is it a medical process — recognizing, as most of us do, that it must be a medical process?

Third, what is the cost per day? Compare this cost with your last experience in a general hospital, and then you will know whether adequate treatment can be given.)

Fourth, what is the ratio of the patients to the physician, the number of patients per nurse, the number of patients per attendant?

Fifth, what is the discharge rate, and how many of the patients are well when they are discharged?

Sixth, what is the length of time that a patient remains in the state hospital?

Seventh, what is the percentage of overcrowding?

I think that if one asks all those questions and arms himself and then goes to a group who can bring social pressure — whether it is the Kiwanis or the woman's club or any other social group who would turn missionary enough to be interested in this neglected area of our social situation — a great deal could be done.

DR. BARTON: I think that the individual listener can offer his service to state hospitals, too. Carefully selected persons, with wholesome attitudes, would be of use to us. For example, they can contribute books or magazines or funds for Christmas gifts and special outings, or

they can contribute their services. They can help us with the evening period — letter-writing, reading to patients, with games. They can conduct patient groups to entertainments; take patients to ball games or for a ride or for shopping services; and can give attention to the little personal needs that patients have. A volunteer certainly can be a friend to a patient in need.

DR. MENNINGER: I think that those are excellent suggestions, and I am certainly in sympathy with them. But I do not believe that anybody can salve their conscience by running out to a state hospital and doing a little good turn now and then and think that that is going to change the picture effectively.

I think that we have to talk to the people who *can* change it and be sure that they know that we want it changed. That means our legislators. Why should we not ask them what they think? What is the state budget in your state and my state? What are our state governors and our state legislators doing about it? And what are their intentions? They will do what we tell them to do.

I think that this is the crux of the problem — that only through social consciousness and group action can we effect such a change.

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"The only reason everyone doesn't subscribe to helping feed the hungry is just because they've never known how it felt — never dreamed how real hunger felt. If they knew, if they had experienced it, they would not begrudge food to others; they'd be the first to give it."

— PEPPER YOUNG'S FAMILY

# Not in the News

JACK C. WILSON

**O**N MY WAY to the broadcasting studios, I usually find myself passing the radio newsroom and pausing to stare through the glass windows which reveal a busy scene. There's the click of typewriters and the clackety-clack of the news tickers. (*Sound effect: news ticker*) Yes, they're bringing in news from all over the world, news that sometimes seems to be all of tragedy and confusion — airplane crashes, auto accidents, crimes, international misunderstanding, divorces, and political intrigue. It sometimes seems that life can't continue on this tired old world another day. It's certainly not worth living — no hope, no future.

But wait a minute! Suppose I bring you my own news report — my own report of what's actually happening. At the lunch counter

at noon today, I overheard a girl talking, a smiling girl with sparkling eyes. This hasn't been confirmed but she said that cute boy in the accounting department — the one who's good-looking and shy, sort of like Jimmie Stewart — well, they happened to sit together when they were having coffee at the drug store and he asked her for a date. This surprising development is exclusive with your correspondent

(*Sound effect: news ticker*)

Yes, perhaps the most important news of all doesn't come in over those tickers. The ticker tells of the gang of kids who robbed the filling station — whole stole a car and cracked it up when they went for a joyride — who staged a gang fight in which two teen-agers were badly injured. But I have a report about George Malone — let's call him. George delivered his papers this morning, hurried to school, and then went to football practice. He did his homework that night and listened to the radio. But it was a big day for George — important, too. He went to sleep dreaming of those two tackles he'd made while the coach was looking. Maybe he'll start in the game this Saturday — and maybe he'll get that scholarship and go to college — and maybe — but never mind, he went to sleep then.

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*The writer of these encouraging news items is a member of NBC's Script Division. The program, in the daily series "Once Upon Our Time," was broadcast over the network November 20, 1947. The script, with background music and interpolations of song, was presented by Jack Kilty, of "Oklahoma" fame.*

(Sound effect: news ticker)

Today, I am reliably informed, fellow named Jim Morgan did not et a divorce from his wife. Instead, he kissed her goodbye this morning — and that touch of gray in her hair made her seem only more recious to him. And when he miled this afternoon, it wasn't at a pretty stenographer. I hope I don't sound too excited. He smiled at the hought that this is the Christmas he'll get that coat she's always wanted. And here's a surprising evelation — he didn't embezzle a ingle cent of the firm's money. That advancement he's been hoping or so long finally came through.

*Sound effect: news ticker*) And his is the day that Harry and Mabel didn't go to court to argue over custody of the children. In fact, they weren't even charged with neglect or cruelty. Instead, they went to the hospital and she lied on his shoulder after the doctors told them their little girl would recover, that the danger was past. The world has never been quite so wonderful, quite so beautiful as it was at that moment.

An important event took place in the house up the street today — even though the columnists generally overlooked it. Little Mary Anne walked for the first time. In

fact, I've discovered that there's a wave of such happenings, if not a definite trend. Peggy Lee said a few words today and, after questioning her at length on the phone, her father declared that he understood them. However, in some informed circles this is doubted. There was quite a brawl at the Smith home — Shirley had her first party on her sixth birthday. There was considerable assault and battery, but it was hushed up with the help of some bribery involving ice cream.

(Sound effect: news ticker)

Yes, the news comes in from all over the nation — news of violence and catastrophe, of corruption and intrigue. But right now — all over the country — a remarkable development is taking place. Lights are twinkling brightly in millions of homes across the land . . . families are gathering together around the dinner table . . . friends are stopping by to visit . . . girls are waiting for their boy friends to call . . . and old folks are talking excitedly of Thanksgiving when the youngsters will be home again. Perhaps the big stories are in little lives, lives filled with joys and sorrows, with hope for tomorrow, with faith and love for those who share the dreams of the passing years.

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MOLLY: Why didn't you ever get married, Doctor Gamble?

Doc: I've been trying to find a woman with whom no other woman could find any fault. It's about as foolproof a way to stay single as any I know.

— FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY

# The Black Market in Babies

JUSTINE WISE POLIER and JOHN K. M. McCAFFERY

**JUDGE POLIER:** Mr. McCaffery, I wanted to talk to you about black-market adoption. It is a hideous practice that has grown up in New York over the past ten years, in which people ply a trade in the sale of babies for adoption. It has long been disturbing to people who have worked in the field of adoption. Each year it becomes worse in New York, and no effective steps seem to have been taken to really end it. It means great danger to children and adoptive parents, and frequently serious injustice to the mothers of the children who surrender them. I say this because mothers who are unmarried feel very often that they are trapped. They come to the point of having children and have no place where they can put their children, and no proper shelter for themselves.

**MR. McCAFFERY:** Doesn't the city or the state provide facilities for these unmarried mothers, Judge Polier?

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*Justine Wise Polier is Justice of the Domestic Relations Court in New York City. This discussion was broadcast November 21, 1947, over Station WNBC in the daily program series conducted by Mr. McCaffery, entitled "Room 416."*

**JUDGE POLIER:** At the present time the city relies entirely on private agencies to provide shelter for unmarried mothers, and I'm sorry to say that those private shelters only meet the needs of about one-half of the girls who come to them for care.

**MR. McCAFFERY:** Well, where do the others go?

**JUDGE POLIER:** Some of them are forced back into small communities from which they have run away because of their fear and shame others are forced to turn to anyone who will take the child away from them and pay their expenses in a hospital, even though they would like to keep their children and ultimately provide a home for them.

**MR. McCAFFERY:** Now, tell me — what happens? Here is a case of a girl who comes to New York, who is going to have a baby and she does have a child. Who approaches her? What mechanism is gone through in this situation?

**JUDGE POLIER:** Very often no one approaches her. She has to try to find a place where she can go in the last months of her pregnancy and where she can find hospital care. Often she finds that the places to which she is referred have no vacancies and will have none. Others say they won't help her un-

ess she has come before the sixth or seventh month of her pregnancy. The result is that she is forced to go into a boarding house, a furnished room — alone, without friends. Or someone may come and say to her, "Look, I'll put you in a hospital, pay your expenses, even give you a little money — if in return you'll agree to give up your baby. A good family is waiting." Trapped, she feels she has no alternative and surrenders her baby, not knowing whether the family will be a good one or a bad one.

MR. McCAFFERY: How do these people who come to her find out about her?

JUDGE POLIER: Sometimes in the hospital where she is forced to go someone comes to her before the baby is born or afterward — knowing that there are no visitors, knowing that she is unmarried — and talks to her and suggests this as a way out. Sometimes a friend has told her of a doctor to whom she may go or a sanitarium where they will relieve her of the child, pay her expenses, and give her a little money with which she can go back to a normal life.

MR. McCAFFERY: Now this black market operator — what does he do? And how much money does he get for this child?

JUDGE POLIER: There are various types of people operating the black market. Some are doctors who receive substantial fees for their services. Very often there are middlemen — lawyers, managers of sani-

tariums — who split their fees with the doctors, a little bit to the girl, and most of it for themselves.

MR. McCAFFERY: Well then, nothing is investigated about this child. In other words, a person who gets a baby in this black market knows a minimum about it, I presume.

JUDGE POLIER: People who are involved in this trade don't know what a "social history" means. They are not concerned with the background of the child. They haven't the facilities to determine more than the crudest things about the baby's physical health. And often they may conceal the fact that the child is not a normal child or a good risk for adoption. They certainly make no tests as to the child's psychological potential, and they turn the child over to the first family who will take it. As a result, very often, well-intentioned families find after months that they have a child that never will be normal, and a new tragedy begins.

But I think even more serious than protecting the adoptive families who choose to buy a baby in the black market is the fact that these children are turned over to families who are not investigated. Many of these families have gone to private agencies and have been excluded because the agencies do not feel that they would make good parents. They may be a couple whose marriage is about to go on the rocks, who mistakenly feel that a child will hold it together. They may be people who have become

middle-aged and suddenly feel that it would be nice to have a little child around the house. They may be pretty neurotic and poorly adjusted human beings who think that a child can take care of everything for *them*. They are too often thinking more about themselves than what they can do for the child they take care of.

MR. McCAFFERY: When you adopt a child, it is probably the only time our society asks of anyone, "Are you fit to be a parent?" If it's done well, society demands that you have certain qualifications to have children, to deal with them. What, in your opinion, are the things that an investigator would look for if he were seeking to find good parents for a child?

JUDGE POLIER: In a good adoption agency, we are very much concerned with what kind of a child we're dealing with, what kind of a family this child ought to have, and what we call the matching process. None of that can be done in black-

market adoption. But there's one other thing that leads to black market adoption, aside from the people who want to make money out of it. That is the fact that our society still maintains taboos and unwholesome attitudes toward children born out of wedlock. That kind of attitude forces mothers to give up children whom they might keep, and makes life extremely difficult for children born out of wedlock.

If we're going to tackle the black-market problem effectively we're going to have to change our attitude toward children born out of wedlock. We're going to have to have legislation that makes it a crime for people to sell babies as a piece of goods. And we're going to have to have legislation that requires that any adoptive parents — as soon as they seek or secure a child — are immediately investigated by public or private agencies to see whether they can make good parents.

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## BITTERSWEET

"The standards should be jacked up if you expect to hold an audience of reasonably intelligent women for daytime serials."

— NBC listener in Lakewood, Ohio

"I am writing in defense of the serial radio drama. Let me say that I hold three degrees and I thoroughly enjoy the radio serial."

— NBC listener in Cumberland, Md.

# Famous Farewells

ROBERT RIPLEY

*At the conclusion of each day's "Believe It or Not" program on NBC, Bob Ripley quotes a colorful blessing or farewell which he has come across in the course of his round-the-world travels. For example:*

"May you have a beautiful name like the sounding of the sea.  
May you have fast-flourishing children, ample bed sheets,  
colored scarves and dreams full of fiddles!"

— Prayer of a Corsican woman for her new-born child

•

"In the name of the compassionate and the all-merciful,  
May your life together be like some tree of over-arching  
greenness —

Yielding fruit, shade, and fragrance by the side of a pure  
river — calm, sweet, and lustrous."

— Bali native blessing upon newlyweds

•

"May you never be without dry firewood,  
Cucumbers shaped like rainbows,  
Maiden aunts, and colored baskets.

And may sweetly-singing birds speak among your dreams."

— Farewell by a native chieftain in the Fiji Islands

•

"The blessings of Allah upon you. May you have a perfumed couch,  
yellow robes, and a dinner of seventeen dishes each day!"

— Thanks for charity, from a beggar in Morocco

•

May you have the sweetness of honey — without the sting of the bee."

— Thanks for a coin, from a Basque dancing girl in the Pyrenees

•

“May you be as strong as the tallest tree of Paradise,  
May the brightest star of evening be your guide,  
May your fishes and baked turtles multiply like coral,  
And may all your days be Sunday — bye and bye.”

— From a native song on an island in the West Indies

•

“May you enjoy a perfect body temperature and may all your nights be illuminated by a lustrous, full, yellow moon, and the tiny lights of a million fireflies.”

— Chinese greeting on the autumn day when the cricket steals under the bed

•

“May you know more than one Song, one Woman, one Book, and one Friend.”

— A wish between friends in Southern France when saying goodbye

•

“May you live to be a hundred  
and may you smile through every year.”

— Blessing from an old woman selling newspapers in Sydney, Australia

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## NEW PORTRAITS OF OLD FAVORITES



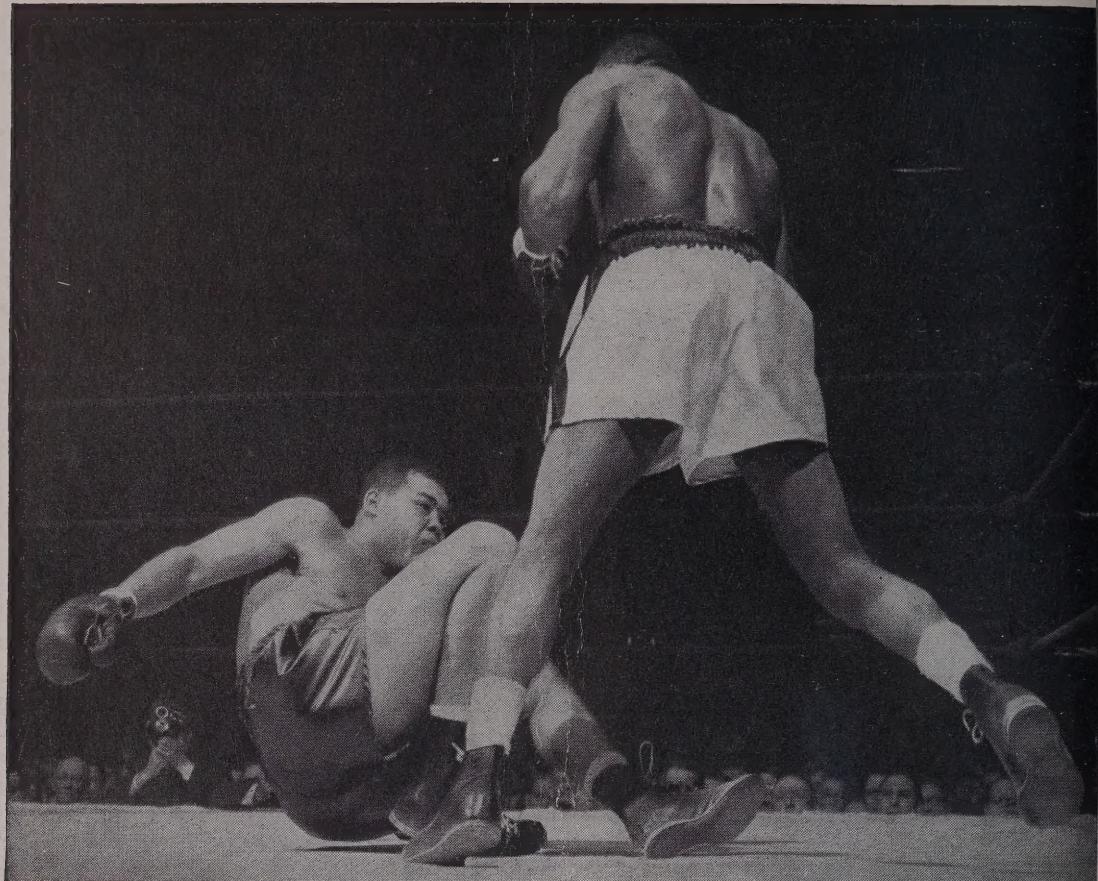
Cartoons on this page are from a collection of portraits of NBC stars drawn by Sam Berman. Above is Bob Hope. The character resembling a bumble-bee is Jerry Colonna.



This is Fred Allen, starting his weekly stroll down Allen's Alley.



Millions admire Jack Benny, though not for his skill on the violin.



## **JOE LOUIS IS DOWN IN THE FOURTH ROUND**

*An estimated audience of two million spectators in five eastern cities watched NBC's telecast of the fifteen-round title bout between champion Joe Louis and challenger Joe Walcott in Madison Square Garden on December 5, 1947.*

*Joe Louis won by a close decision.*

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